■ SPORTS / A25

UAAP suspends La Salle for 1 year

■ METRO / A21

Edsa-Taft, Ayala Avenue, Pedro Gil among noisiest in Metro Manila, says UST study

■ SUPER / D1

Super! invades shores of Bora bora, bang, bang

■ SAT. SPECIAL / A2-2

Christine Bersola-Babao writes about her 'miracle' in Macau during Holy Week

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, April 22, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 133 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Free breast exams put fake doctor behind bars

SI DOKTOR TSANSING YAN!!!

MIAMI—A 76-YEAR-OLD man claiming to be a doctor went door-to-door in a Florida neighborhood offering free breast exams, and was charged with sexually assaulting two women who accepted the offer, police said on Thursday.

FREE/ A15

SC ruling: Good fences make good neighbors

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

COMMENTARY

AS THE SAYING GOES, GOOD FENCES MAKE good neighbors. But that is really not enough: The neighbors must know and accept where the fences are.

The decision of the Supreme Court did not plant new fences. The fences dividing the execu-

SC RULING/ A8

Senate to resume probe of scandals

House leaders fear opening of 'Pandora's box'

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

EMBOLDENED BY A Supreme Court ruling voiding portions of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464, senators are preparing to rattle skeletons they believe are hidden in government closets, including those in Malacañang.

In the House of Representatives, a senior pro-administration congressman yesterday expressed concern the high court decision could "open a Pandora's box," aggravating President Macapagal-Arroyo's problems.

Senate President Franklin Drilon declared he would revive the suspended inquiry by the chamber's committee of the whole into the allegedly overpriced $503-million NorthRail project.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the committee on national defense, has a different target: With EO 464 out of the way, the committee could start sending out fresh invitations to high and low-ranking military officials who had snubbed its hearings into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

"We can now start inviting them," Biazon said in an interview, referring to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and other military officials.

Militant lawmakers sought the resumption of investigations into questionable acts of the executive.

SENATE/ A8

RAFFY LERMA

CHIEF JUSTICE PANGANIBAN: Decision based on Constitution.

SC chief: The only winner is justice

By Armand N. Nocum

CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO Panganiban yesterday squelched speculation that political pressure came into play in the Supreme Court ruling striking down parts of presidential Executive Order No. 464, and said the justices decided the issue without regard for who won or lost politically.

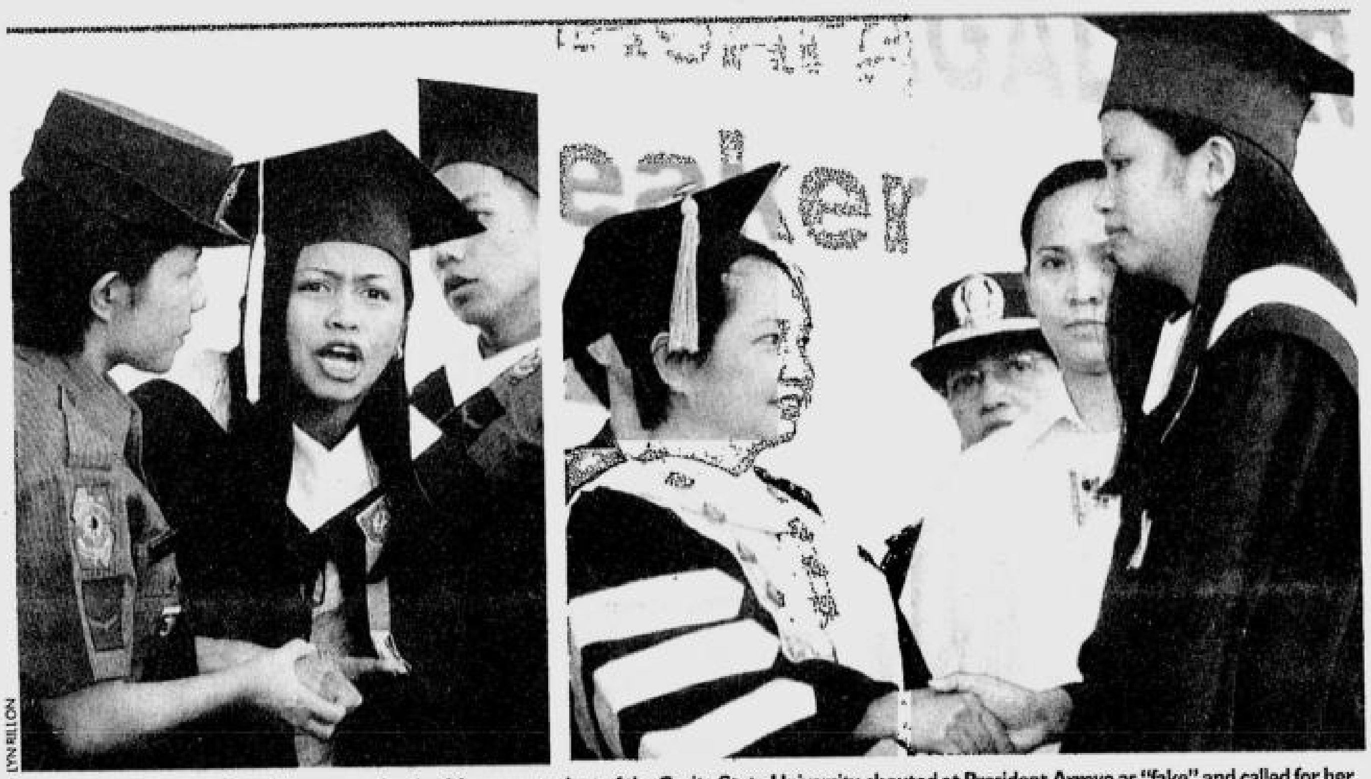
"The only winner here is justice," Panganiban told reporters at the launch of the Judicial Bar and Council's website at the high tribunal's session hall.

Some critics had claimed pressures from Malacañang might have persuaded the high tribunal to come out with a ruling that would appease the public and the lawmakers who petitioned that the EO 464 be declared unconstitutional, while at the same time providing protection for the executive department.

"We decided based on what the Constitution mandates and on the basis of law. We are not particular on who loses or wins," Panganiban said.

"The decision speaks for itself. What we declared void were those provisions in conflict with the Constitution," Panganiban said, referring to Sections 2 (b) and Section 3 of the EO that required officials of the executive department to obtain presidential consent before testifying in

SC CHIEF/ A8


LYN RILLON

GOTCHA: Ma. Theresa Pangilinan, a graduating Masscom student of the Cavite State University, shouted at President Arroyo as "fake" and called for her ouster as the President was delivering the commencement address. Still, the graduate who's president of the university's central student government, was allowed to go up the stage (above right), get her diploma and receive congratulations from a smiling Ms Arroyo albeit both looked away from each other.

Students heckle GMA in Cavite graduation

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

INDANG, CAVITE—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was heckled here yesterday by a Mass Communication graduate of the Cavite State University, turning the afternoon commencement exercise into a nightmare of protests against her.

Just a few minutes into the President's speech, the student, Maria Theresa Pangilinan, shouted *"Patalsikin si* (Oust) Gloria" while holding up a red banner with the words "No to Chacha." A member of the Presidential Security Group and two security guards of the university immediately went to where Pangilinan was sitting and confiscated the banner.

The President was visibly stunned but kept her poise and resumed her speech.

STUDENTS/ A15

Lottery racket rivalry seen in Saudi slays

By Volt Contreras

RIVALRY OVER COMPETING ILlegal lottery operations has emerged as a plausible motive for the gruesome killings in Saudi Arabia involving a group of Filipino workers.

One of the seven Filipino suspects being detained by Saudi police has admitted to operating a lottery in competition with another run by another Filipino, one of three missing Filipinos whose disappearance coincided with the discovery of butchered body parts in Jeddah two weeks ago.

The seven suspects have admitted to killing the three missing Filipinos, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday, quoting from an April 20 report from Consul General Pendosina Lomondot.

The Saudi police have informed the Philippine consulate in Jeddah that the seven Filipino suspects had revealed how and where they carried out the crime, Lomondot's report added.

With this development in the investigation, the Saudi police should have already cleared and released the many other Filipinos who have been detained, the DFA said.

LOTTERY/ A15

Woman is RP's hero of zero-garbage

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MAN IN A BRIGHTLY COlored uniform pushes a wooden cart with a towering roof along the labyrinthine streets of Bagong Silang in Caloocan City.

For 24 hours daily, he and his fellow "eco-aides" at the city's Environmental Sanitation Services office move from house to house, collecting wastes initially segregated by residents.

Then they proceed to the material recovery facility (MRF) at City Hall where garbage—biodegradable, nonbiodegradable, and residual—is segregated once more. Very little garbage is thrown away. Most of it is either sold or goes back to the earth.

People in the once smelly and riotous barangay of Bagong Silang had never been used to such a discipline. Not until someone showed them how.

They learned the technique and the patience from Theresa Calo, a trainer at the Mother Earth Foundation, a nongovernment organization advocating environmental protection.

The 30-year-old Calo goes around the country, teaching Filipinos how to dispose of their waste properly. Caloocan, a city of more than a million people, was one of her stops last year.

A report released by the Asian Development Bank in 2004 says Metro Manila generates about 6,700 tons of garbage every day, of which 720 tons is recycled or composted. About 6,000 tons is thrown in dumps, on private land, on rivers and creeks, on Manila Bay, or burned.

In the last three years, Calo has

WOMAN/ A4

MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY
2003

NEITHER INCINERATOR NOR LANDFILL: A materials recovery facility such as this one in Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, is environmentally sound to house non-/biodegradable and recyclable waste. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Philip Salvador convicted of estafa

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE BIBLE THAT SLIPPED FROM under Phillip Salvador's right arm while the court decision on the estafa case against him and his brother was being read out yesterday seemed to portend how things would end for the luckless movie actor.

Salvador was found guilty of swindling his ex-girlfriend, businesswoman Christina Castillo-Decena, of $100,000 that was to have capitalized a freight and money remittance business to be set up in Hong Kong.

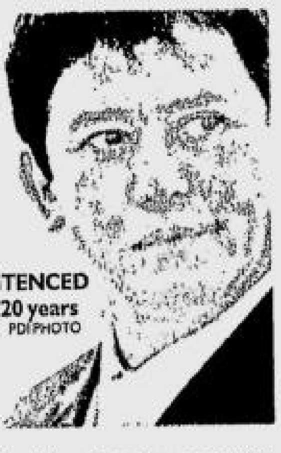
Judge Elizabeth Yu-Guray of the Las Piñas City Regional Trial Court Branch 202 sentenced Salvador to four to 20 years in prison and ordered him to pay Decena the $100,000 she had raised to bankroll the business.

Salvador's brother, Ramon, was acquitted because of insufficiency of evidence.

"This court, assessing the evidence on record, is of the considered opinion that the prosecution was able to prove that [estafa] was committed and that [Salvador] is guilty beyond reasonable doubt," the 24-page decision read.

But the court said the evidence presented by the prosecution did not establish the participation of Salvador's brother in the crime,

PHILIP/ A10


SENTENCED
4 to 20 years
PDI PHOTO

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/04/21/06

PCGG: Deal with Marcoses near

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government is now saying that a compromise settlement with former First Lady Imelda Marcos over the ill-gotten wealth of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos is within reach.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede told a news conference yesterday that he met Wednesday night with an intermediary of Mrs. Marcos for more than an hour, describing the talks as "fruitful" and "meaningful."

An upbeat Abcede predicted that a compromise agreement with the Marcoses would be struck this year.

"I was able to conduct exploratory talks with a representative of Mrs. Marcos last night," Abcede said, adding that he could not reveal the identity of the intermediary.

But he said the intermediary was not related by blood to the Marcoses, but was "very close to them" and "very influential."

"I am assured that he or she was given authority by Mrs. Marcos to negotiate."

The PCGG is considering dropping some or all of the cases against the Marcos family in exchange for a share of the Marcos wealth.

The Marcos wealth is estimated between $10 billion and $100 billion.

Abcede disclosed that his first requirement for a deal was "an honest-to-goodness disclosure" of all the Marcos assets. With this accomplished, he said, the talks could proceed to the next phase.

"He seems to be amenable to the requirement. We can get a list probably next week. The negotiator said they would try (to come up with the list)," Abcede said.

After the PCGG receives the list, Abcede said, his office would verify the existence of its contents. Later, the two sides could negotiate how much the government and the Marcoses would get from the assets.

"After the disclosure and the verification, that is when we can talk of percentages. Definitely, the government would get a bigger share," Abcede said.

Then, Abcede said, the PCGG would look into the status of the cases against the Marcoses "and see which of the cases can be dismissed or whether all cases will be dismissed."

After a draft agreement is produced, the PCGG will have to deliberate before submitting the agreement to the Sandiganbayan for approval and later to the Supreme Court. "There will be many steps because this is not an ordinary compromise agreement," Abcede said.

Rebel soldiers warn of new destabilization moves against gov't

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DESPITE THE MILITARY'S crackdown on renegade officers and soldiers, two fugitive Army officers have warned of more destabilization moves against the Arroyo administration in the coming days.

In an interview over ABS-CBN's "Probe" late Thursday night, Army 1Lt. Sonny Sarmiento warned their group would be "mak[ing their] presence felt in the coming days."

"We are coming out to show the public we junior officers are still here and we cannot be bought off. We are still continuing our fight," Sarmiento added.

It was Sarmiento's first interview since he and three other mutineers escaped from an Army detention facility last Jan. 17. The other escapees were Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and 1Lts. Patricio Bumidang Jr. and Lawrence San Juan, who was captured last Feb. 21 in Batangas.

"Probe" also played an audiotape supposedly from Rabonza apologizing to the public for not joining the Edsa protest rallies last Feb. 24 and the standoff at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio last Feb. 26.

"We failed to join them due to certain events we did not expect," Rabonza said in Filipino. "We assure them that in the coming days, we will continue the fight and coordinate with them. They can count on us we are ready to lay down our lives for them," added Rabonza.

The military, however, dismissed the threats. "We will face them head-on. We will not allow any armed group to terrorize and destabilize the government," said military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado. "They may be noisy but they don't have the muscle."

During the TV interview, Sarmiento also denied the claim by their former comrade, Army Capt. Gerardo Gambala that the mutineers were approached by communist representatives in December 2003, pointing out that Gambala and five other Magdalo leaders have been detained at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines compound since the July 27, 2003 mutiny.

But Sarmiento did not reject the idea that they would link up with the military's sworn enemy, the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

"We are open to talks [with the left] as long as it is within the context of peace since even the government is talking with them too," he said in Filipino.

He did not elaborate.

Asked if their group had linked up with fugive ex-senator Gregorio Honasan, Sarmiento said the ex-Army colonel who led several failed coup d'etat against the Aquino administration, was their "example and inspiration." *With AFP report*

SUBIC RAPE CASE ARRAIGNMENT SET

Angry DOJ chief scolds Olongapo prosecutor

By Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk* and Tarra V. Quismundo *in Manila*

OLONGAPO CITY—JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez has threatened to file insubordination charges against city prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni for "openly disagreeing" with Gonzalez's decision to downgrade the charges filed against three of four US Marines accused of raping a Filipina in Subic last year.

Jalandoni said an irate Gonzalez called him by phone on Thursday to tell him of the insubordination charges.

"I told the secretary I had no intention of hurting him or disrespecting him. I was just voicing my opinion as to why I could not accept his resolution," Jalandoni told the INQUIRER by phone on Friday, two days after he resigned from the newly created five-member prosecution panel.

"Even the Supreme Court respects the prerogative of fiscals. We are the first line of defense in the criminal justice system. We can't deviate from how the law defines the accessories or principals in a crime," said the University of the Philippines-trained Jalandoni, who has spent at least 13 years as a prosecutor in Olongapo City.

He said Gonzalez should not have designated him to the panel because Gonzalez knew all along that he and Olongapo City Assistant Prosecutor Raymond Viray had found probable cause that Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis conspired with Lance Corporal Daniel Smith to commit rape.

The charges against Carpentier, Silkwood and Duplantes were downgraded by Gonzalez to mere accessories, instead of principals.

In their Dec. 27, 2005 resolution after the preliminary investigation, the two prosecutors said Carpentier, as platoon leader, did not exercise his moral ascendancy over his men especially Smith to stop the alleged abuse inside a moving van.

"Similarly, the other respondents lent moral assistance to Smith not only by their mere presence inside the van but by cheering him to go on. Such encouragement must have emboldened Smith to continue raping the victim despite the latter's resistance."

Smith, 21, had told the US Navy's criminal investigation unit that what took place between him and the woman was "consensual sex."

But the woman, 22, a native of Zamboanga City, said in her Nov. 3 affidavit that she was forced into it.

The four US Marines are expected to be arraigned next Friday at the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 139 for their alleged role in the rape.

Makati RTC Judge Benjamin Pozon yesterday set the arraignment of the accused servicemen on April 28.

During the arraignment, the accused would have to enter a plea of either "guilty" or "not guilty" to the charges.

"Considering the VFA (Visiting Forces Agreement) provisions... and the constitutional right of the people to a speedy disposition of cases, the court hereby set the arraignment of the accused on April 28.... US military authorities and the US Embassy are hereby directed by this court to bring the accused before the court on the arraignment," Pozon ordered in open court yesterday morning, his first time to hear the case.

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DENR tops environmentalists' 'Lagpak' awards

By Blanche S. Rivera

AND THE AWARD FOR DEGRADING the environment goes to ... the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

In an ironic twist, environmentalists yesterday gave the top Lagpak or Lapastangan at Gahasa sa Kalikasan (Disrespect for and rape of nature) award to the government agency mandated to protect the environment and ensure sustainable use of the country's resources.

Two other government entities and four private firms also received Lagpak awards, a shame campaign that names "longtime polluters with a legacy of destroying the environment."

"The DENR gets top honors for dismally failing to fulfill its mandate. Instead of protecting the environment, it has instead become the problem through its promotion of environmentally damaging activities like mining and logging," Akbayan Rep. Risa Baraquel said in a press conference yesterday.

Baraquel said the DENR was suffering from "schizophrenia" because it had the conflicting mandate of promoting mining and conserving the environment.

Akbayan, Greenpeace, EcoWaste Coalition and Sagip Pasig Movement (SPM) picked this year's awardees. The Lagpak award is an expanded version of the Lason Awards given by the SPM to polluters of the Pasig River every year.

Thank you

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, surprisingly, thanked the nongovernment organizations for the Lagpak award, because this was another reason to continue protecting the environment.

"We have always considered nongovernment organizations, civil society groups, and local government units as the DENR's partners in its mission to conserve our natural resources," Reyes said in a statement.

"As Greenpeace itself is aware—because of its global activist work, the Philippines is like many other nations struggling to keep their environment safe and clean and we are all far from reaching the ideal," he said.

The National Power Corp. (Napocor) was also given the Lagpak award for causing the biggest oil spill in the country's history, according to Greenpeace campaigner Jasper Inventor.

A barge by Napocor accidentally dumped 300,000 liters of oil in the coasts of Semirara Island in Antique on Dec. 18 last year, killing mangroves and other marine life in the area.

Napocor said it was undertaking cleanup operations, which are almost finished.

"It's unfortunate that the Semirara oil spill had to happen. We're inviting those who gave us the award to see for themselves what we've done in the area," according to Napocor corporate communications consultant Dennis Gana.

Gana stressed that Napocor's plants were all compliant with the Clean Air Act and the international environmental laws and statutes.

"In fact, we don't just aim to comply, we always make sure that our operations are environment friendly," he said.

Cyanide fish

Australian mining company Lafayette Phils. Inc. was the first shame awardee from the mining sector. It was cited for two mine spills that caused cyanide contamination in the bodies of water near its mine site, in Rapu-Rapu, Albay, killing most of the fish.

The INQUIRER contacted Lafayette but its management declined to comment.

The DENR suspended the operation of Lafayette's gold processing plant and fined the firm P10.7 million for violating the Clean Water Act.

Reyes said he would not allow Lafayette to resume operations until it has complied with all the requirements.

Monsanto was given the Lagpak award for being a "genetic polluter" insisting on planting genetically modified crops in prohibited areas, according to Greenpeace. ***With reports from Abigail L. Ho and Christine A. Gaylican***

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Woman is RP's hero ...

From page A1

been to more than 1,000 barangays in more than 15 provinces—from the Mt. Province and Ilocos Sur to Sorsogon and Lanao del Norte—acting as a one-woman training crew or an ambassador of proper waste management, if ever there has been one.

She swears it's not an easy job, considering the lack of discipline, if not complete indifference, of not a few Filipinos.

"Patience is the key," Calo said in an interview at her office near Katipunan Avenue the other day. "You have to explain the dangers confronting the environment in a simple and practical way."

Calo isn't the type who speaks the language of environment bureaucrats that barely communicates. Her best selling point is the simplicity of her language and her sincerity.

Experience is best teacher

With no formal training in waste management, she depends on her wealth of experience in garbage disposal to drive home her point during her training sessions.

A member of Mother Earth for five years now, Calo used to keep 15 pots in her yard where she would stuff biodegradable waste, including sanitary napkins, and wait until they mix with the soil. The process usually took 20 days to a month, she said.

She got rid of the pots soon after Barangay Libis in Quezon City adopted her waste disposal techniques.

"It's important for trainers like me to first practice what we preach," she said. "Waste management isn't learned from someone who doesn't apply it in her own home."

The signs of Calo's success are all over the country.

Caloocan, for instance, has been showing visible signs of cleanliness since she visited the place last year and conducted, in less than two months, marathon training sessions covering the city's 188 barangays.

Local officials consider their diminutive trainer a sort of a savior.

At the time of her lectures, an association of environmental lawyers was about to serve Caloocan City a "notice to sue" for its alleged failure to enforce RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Calo recalled.

It was no secret that cleanliness was never one of the city's commendable aspects.

Lawsuit preempted

"The notice was no longer served after the lawyers learned that the city government was already initiating a program," Calo said. She noted that neighboring Malabon, Parañaque, and Las Piñas were subsequently slapped with lawsuits.

Since last year, Calo said Caloocan had been steadily complying with RA 9003 and had lessened the volume of its garbage. That's because a huge chunk of its waste now goes to MRFs.

An MRF, not an incinerator or a landfill, is where the garbage should be, her group believes.

It has a compost area where biodegradable waste, or waste that decomposes rapidly, such as food leftovers, is dumped until they naturally become part of the earth.

A second MRF section is a warehouse for nonbiodegradable or recyclable materials, like juice packs.

Money from garbage

Waste that can neither be turned into compost nor recycled is considered residual—candy and junk food wrappers, Styrofoam, noodle cups, etc.

Calo said a temporary solution to get rid of the residuals is to turn these wastes into concrete, much like a hollow block for construction. A permanent one is not to produce them at all.

An MRF can earn as much as P70,000 monthly by selling recyclable materials to junk shops and factories, she pointed out.

It is literally squeezing money from garbage. That is why MRFs in Linamon, Lanao del Norte, are guarded like banks by heavily armed policemen, she said.

Where dirty mayors are

Like Caloocan, Linamon was once visited by the indefatigable Calo for a session on waste management. It didn't take long before she got the support of the mayor and other local officials.

Having cleaned up his place and taught residents to maintain discipline, Mayor Cherlito Macas came up with a new political slogan: "Only dumb mayors need dumpsites. Show me a dirty city/municipality and I will show you a dirty mayor."

The challenge is yet to be met in many parts of the country.

But no longer in barangays in Pulilio in Quezon, Pilar in Sorsogon, Ibaan in Batangas, Teresa in Rizal, Bontoc in Mt. Province, Alfonso Lista in Ifugao, Candon City in Ilocos Sur, Bolinao in Pangasinan, Sta. Barbara in Iloilo, and General Santos City.

A matter of education

They have Calo to thank for arousing their environmental consciousness.

"We should not give up on each other," Calo said. "Just teach a person how and he will put his garbage where it should be. More importantly, he should see infrastructure, tangible programs from government leaders, all showing they are serious about solving the problem."

Corrections

IN THE APRIL 20 issue, a photo caption on the front page misspelled the surname of the United States ambassador to the Philippines. The ambassador's name is Kristie Kenney—not Kenny.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page story—"Palace orders implementation of ID system"—stated that Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno had said the National Census and Statistical Office could handle the consolidation of the ID cards of different agencies. Puno was actually referring to the National Statistics Office.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on Page A13—"GMA is out of town on 'semi-private' time"—misspelled the name of a popular diving site in the country. The diving site is Tubbataha Reef—not Tubattaha Reef.

* * *

IN THE ROUNDUP story that appeared on April 20, Page A13, SPO2 Ricardo Pilar who shot himself after killing his boss is still alive, contrary to the report. Pilar is in critical condition in a hospital in Cauayan City.

* * *

THE STORY "Designer, pal found dead in car" on Page A23 of the Metro section in yesterday's issue misstated that the vehicle owned by Melchor Vergel de Dios is a sports utility vehicle. Actually, it is a sedan.

* * *

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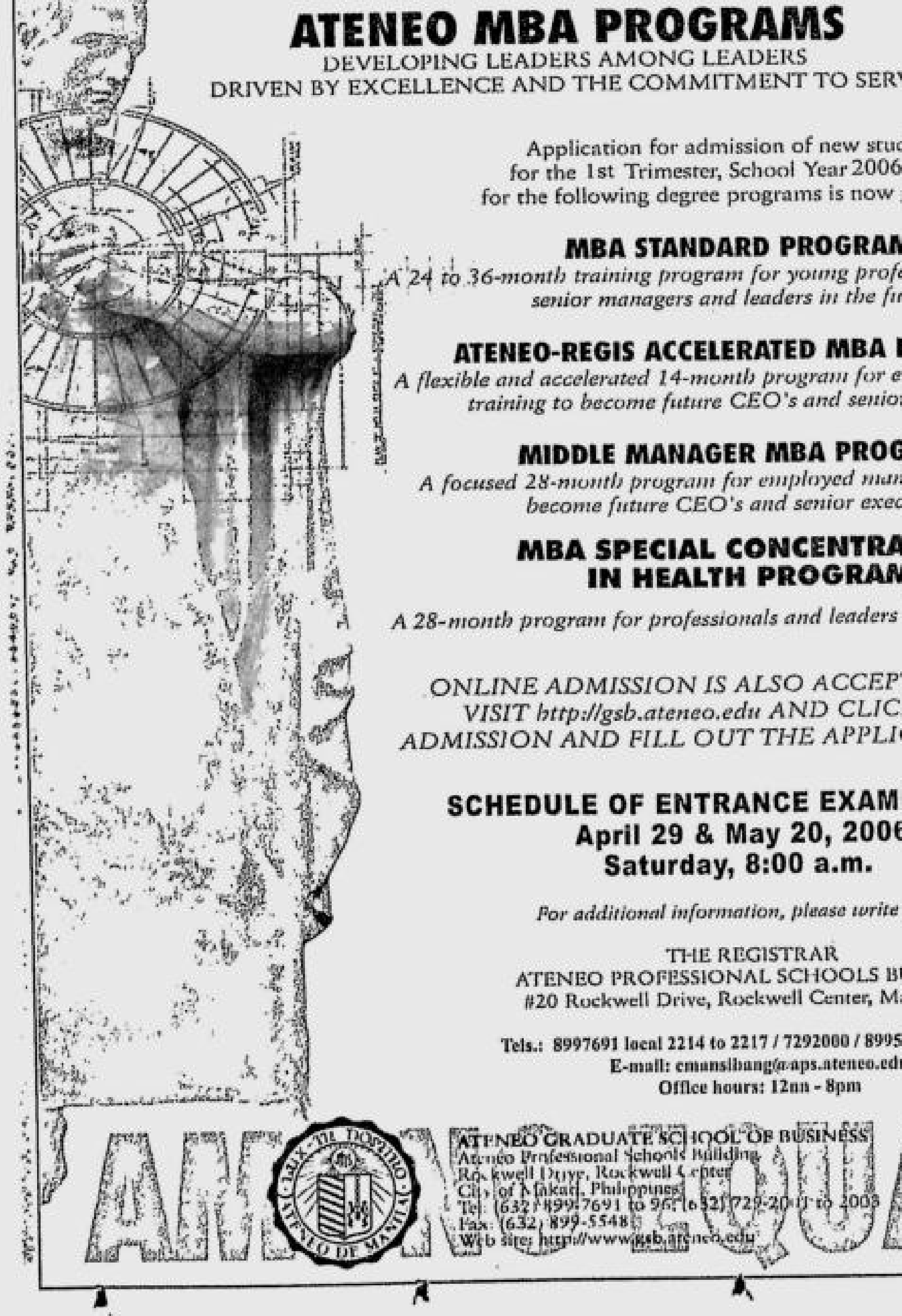

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#20 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

Tels.: 8997691 local 2214 to 2217 / 7292000 / 8995548 direct line
E-mail: cmansibang@aps.ateneo.edu
Office hours: 12nn - 8pm

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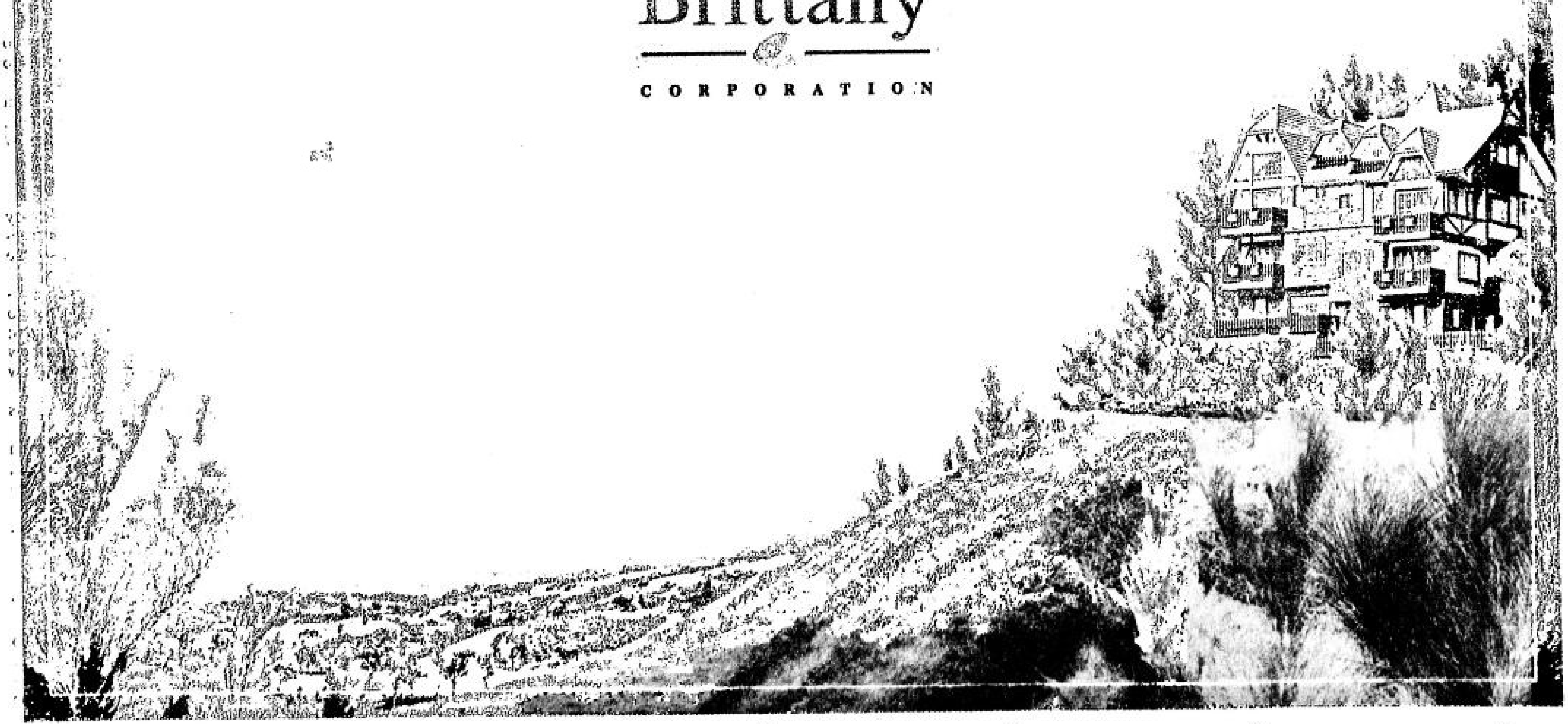

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Department of Tourism - Southern Tagalog Region

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E-mail reservations@pontefino.com.ph
Website www.pontefino.com.ph
Classification First Class Hotel

MOUNT MALARAYAT GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Brgy. Dagatan, Lipa City, Batangas
Tel No. 893-7024 to 26 Fax No. 894-0155
E-mail info@malarayat.com
Website www.malarayat.com
Classification First Class Hotel

HOTEL LA CORONA DE LIPA
Km 84 Pres. Laurel Highway, Pilahan Sabang, Lipa City
Tel Nos. 5242831 to 36 Fax No. 5253268
E-mail manila@hotellacorona.com
Website www.hotellacorona.com
Classification Standard Class Hotel

LIMA CITY HOTEL
Lima Technology Center, Malvar, Batangas
Tel No. 043 9811555 Fax No. 043 9812555
E-mail lch@gfinesra.com.ph
Website www.limacityhotel.com
Classification Standard Class Hotel

MICROTEL INN & SUITES
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Tel No. 813-7523, 810-9526 Fax No. 817-3942
E-mail microtel@info.com.ph
Classification Economy Class Hotel

Resort

LAGO DE ORO BEACH & RESTAURANT
Balibago, Calatagan Batangas
Tel No. (0917) 504-2685, (0917) 504-3479
Fax No. (043) 92-1617, 921-1698, (02) 857-2105
E-mail contactus@lago-de-oro.com
Website www.lago-de-oro.com
Classification Class "AA" Resort

MATABUNGKAY BEACH RESORT AND HOTEL, INC.
Lian, Batangas
Tel No. 752-5252; 752-2525, 819-3080
Fax No. 817-1176
E-mail mtbngkay@batangas1.i-net.com/
sales1@matabungkay.net
Classification Class "AA" Resort

VERDE ISLAND RESORT
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Tel No. (043) 723-2411, (02) 520-6109
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E-mail verde-isla@mozcom.com
Website www.verde-island.com
Classification Class "AA" Resort

VISTAMAR BEACH RESORT (CARFEL VISTAMAR, INC.)
San Jose, Mabini, Batangas
Tel. No. 821-8332, 823-8265 Telefax No. 824-0755
E-mail vistamar@pacific.net.ph
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DIVE & TREK RESORT AND MARINE SANCTUARY
San Pablo, Bauan, Batangas
Tel No. 832-0494 / 851-8746 Fax No. 833-8020
E-mail sales@diveandtrek.com
Website www.diveandtrek.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

BEZO BEACH RESORT (SOLANA DIVE RESORT)
San Teodoro, Mabini, Batangas
Tel No. (0917) 300-1066 Fax No. 818-0853
E-mail scolabezo@gmail.com
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LAIYA COCO GROVE BEACH RESORT AND PICNIC AREA
Brgy. Laiya, Aplaya, San Juan, Batangas
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Website www.laiyacocogrove.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

Spa

THE FARM AT SAN BENITO
119 Brgy. Tipakan, Lipa City, Batangas
Tel Nos. 751-3486, 750 6888 loc. 7428
Telefax No. 751-3497
E-mail info@thefarm.com.ph
Website www.thefarm.com.ph
Classification Resort Spa

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Natipuan, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel No. (0918) 509-7170 Fax No. (0918) 932-0483
E-mail reserve@maya-maya.com /
inquiry@mayamaya.com
Website www.maya-maya.com
Classification Resort Spa

GOLDEN SUNSET RESORT
Poblacion Brgy. Uno, Calatagan, Batangas
Tel No. 634-0205 to 06, 635-6889
Fax No. 634-0287
E-mail info@goldensunset.ph
Website www.goldensunset.ph
Classification Resort Spa

Medical Tourism

ST. FRANCES CABRINI MEDICAL CENTER
Maharlika Highway, Sto. Tomas, Batangas
Tel Nos. (043) 778-4811 Fax No. (043) 778-4810
E-mail cabrin-@nsiquest.ph
Classification Tertiary Hospital

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Rizal Avenue, Batangas City
Tel No. (043) 723-1691

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Sto. Tomas Proper, Batangas

MABINI SHRINE
Brgy. Talaga, Tanauan, Batangas

MARCELA AGONCILLO HISTORICAL LANDMARK
Taal Batangas

LEON APACIBLE HISTORICAL LANDMARK
Taal Batangas

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LIPA CITY HOUSE OF TRAVEL & TOURS INTERNATIONAL
2/F Neo Francis Building, Paninsingin, Tambo, Lipa City, Batangas
Tel. No. (043) 757-2114

ST. WILLIAM TOURS & TRANSPORT SERVICES
232 Zone 3, Bugtong, Lipa City, Batangas
Tel. No. (043) 4564752

Tourist Land Transport Operator

STA. CLARA TRANSPORT SERVICE COOPERATIVE
Rizal Avenue Extension Sta. Clara, Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (0919) 4834402, (0919) 7010620

Tourist Water Transport Operators

MV SUPERCAT 2
Batangas International Port, Sta. Clara, Batangas City
Tel. No. (043) 723-0179

MV STARLITE FERRY
MV STARLITE NAUTICA
MV STARLITE NAVIGATOR
MV STARLITE VOYAGER
MV STARLITE PACIFIC
MV STARLITE ATLANTIC
MV SUPER SEA BUS
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Southwoods Avenue, Carmona Cavite
Tel No. (046) 430-0001 to 10
Fax No. (046) 430-0011 or 28
E-mail msmanor@manilasouthwoods.com
Website www.manilasouthwoods.com
Classification First Class Hotel

TAAL VISTA HOTEL
Km 60 Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel No. 751-3066, 751-3089 Fax No. 751-3090
E-mail a.grocard@fuegohotels.com
Website www.taalvistahotel.com
Classification First Class Hotel

KALIPAYAN RESORT, INC.
Km 29 Bo. Salitran, Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite
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Fax No. (046) 416-1878
Classification Standard Class Hotel

HOTEL DOMINIQUE, INC.
Km. 55 Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, Brgy. Maitim II East, Tagaytay City
Tel No. 529-8173, 529-8162
E-mail hoteldomique@yahoo.com
Classification Standard Class Hotel

SUNRISE HOLIDAY MANSION
Royale Tagaytay Estate, Alfonso, Cavite
Tel No. 436-1317, 426-3002 to 08 Telefax 436-4857
E-mail sunse@sunrisemansionhotel.com
Website www.sunrisemansionhotel.com
Classification Standard Class Hotel

TAGAYTAY COUNTRY HOTEL
Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Telefax (046) 413-3310, (02) 888-5784
E-mail tagaytaycountry@yahoo.com
Website www.tagaytaycountryhotel.com
Classification Standard Class Hotel

MICROTEL INN & SUITES – EAGLE RIDGE
Amadeo Road, Javalera, Gen. Trias, Cavite
Tel No. 8108526 Fax No. 8173842
E-mail microtel@globelines.com
Website www.microtelphilippines.com
Classification Economy Class Hotel

Resorts

ESTANCIA RESORT HOTEL
Zone 2 Brgy. San Jose, Tagaytay City
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Fax No. (046) 4131047
Classification Class "AAA" Resort

ISLAND COVE RESORT & LEISURE PARK
Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite
Tel No. 810-3740, 810-3726
Fax No. 810-3718, 810-5637
E-mail islacove@info.com.ph
Website www.islacovephil.com
Classification Class "AAA" Resort

Spa

NURTURE TROPICAL SPA & CAFÉ
Brgy. Maitim II West, Tagaytay City
Tel Nos. 838-2170 Fax No. 838-2195
E-mail nurturespa@edsamail.com.ph
Classification Spa

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Tel No. (046) 860-2413, (02) 529-8179

TOUGH TOURS & TRAVEL
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Tel No. (046) 450-4236

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Tel No. (046) 471-7731

MALUTO TRANS & TRAVEL CORP.
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Tel No. 872-7379

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58 Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway, Maharlika West, Tagaytay City
Telefax No. (046) 413 1801, 413-1802
E-mail josephinetagaytay@pldtdsl.net

JOSEPHINE RESTAURANT - KAWIT
Panamitan, Kawit, Cavite
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E-mail kawit@josephinerestaurant.com
Website www.josephinerestaurant.com

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Tel No. (046) 434-0603

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E-mail gcs@manilasouthwoods.com
Website www.manilasouthwoods.com

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Tel No. 721-2167; 721-3508, 725-1822
Fax No. 723-2596

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AGUINALDO SHRINE
Kawit, Cavite
Tel No. (046) 434-8573

MUSEO DE LA SALLE
De La Salle Campus, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Tel No. (02) 844-7832, (046) 416-5431

Tour Guides

BAGUIO, EDWARD CHRISTOPHER M.
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Tel No. (046) 434-2880
Language Spoken English

BENEDICTO, MAY JOSEPHINE C.
Tel No. (0917) 691 9115
Language English/Nipponggo

DE GUZMAN, REYNOLD
Tel No. 816-1209
Language Spoken English/Nipponggo

GUERRERO, HONESTO V.
Tel No. (046) 431-0348
Language Spoken English/Italian

NARA, CYNTHIA Y.
Tel No. (046) 970-8575
Language Spoken English/Nipponggo

Training Center

DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Sungay East, Tagaytay City
Tel. No. (046) 413-1290, 413-2843

LAGUNA

Hotels

PAGSANJAN RAPIDS HOTEL
Gen. Taino St. Pagsanjan, Laguna
Tel No. (049) 808-4162, 808-4540 Fax No. 049 8084258
Classification Standard Class Hotel

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Fax No. (049) 699 2011, (02) 817-9610
Classification Standard Class Hotel

Resorts:

DOÑA JOVITA GARDEN RESORT
National Highway, Bagong Kalsada, Calamba City, Laguna
Tel No. 8078245, 8098121 Telefax 842-2057
E-mail donajovita@yahoo.com
Website www.donajovita.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

LA VISTA PANSOL RESORT
Hornale Subdivision, Pansol, Calamba City, Laguna
Tel No. 521-6076, 400-7236
Fax No. 524-6739, 404-3996
Classification Class "A" Resort

LA CORONA DE PAGSANJAN
Brgy. Pinagsanjan, Pagsanjan, Laguna
Tel No. 524-2631, 525-8274 Fax No. 525-6268
Classification Class "A" Resort

RIVERVIEW RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
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Telefax No. 420 8507, 928-4014
E-mail rrcc@webmasphil.com
Website www.riverview.com.ph
Classification Class "A" Resort

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Telefax No. 847-8799
Classification Class "A" Resort

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Tel No. 533-0693, 537-3132, 535-0309
Classification Class "A" Resort

EL CASTILLO ROYAL HOTSPRING RESORT
Villa Teresita Resort Subdivision, Pansol, Calamba City
Tel No. 931-4596 Fax No. 932-2822
E-mail elcastilloroyale@tri-isys.com
Website www.welcome.to/elcastillo_royal
Classification Special Interest Resort

Allied Tourism Establishment

ENCHANTED KINGDOM
Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel No. 843-6073 to 78 Fax No. 843-6071
E-mail ekpark@pacific.net.ph

Travel Agencies

BLUESKY TRAVEL & TOURS
Unit 1, Teresa Arcade, San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna
Tel No. (049) 511-9971, (02) 699-5032

MAKILING TRAVEL & TOURS INC.
2/F Unit 1 J. Alcasid Business Center, Crossing Calamba City
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Website www.makiling-travel.com

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SOUTHERN SKY TRAVEL & TOURS
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Tel No. (049) 534-18-91, (0919) 397-7939

Tour Guides

ALON, ANGELO V.
Tel No. 530-2625
Language Spoken English/Nipponggo

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Tel No. (049) 511-6050
Language Spoken English/Nipponggo

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Tel No. (049) 808-4766
Language Spoken English/Spanish

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Tel No. (049) 546-1209
Language Spoken English/Nipponggo

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Language Spoken English/Nipponggo

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JULIO, MARGARITA S.
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Language Spoken English/Nipponggo

MARTINEZ, PABLITO T.
Tel No. 8318140/8341523
Language Spoken English/Spanish

VITTO, NORMA G.
Tel No. 847-7588
Language Spoken English/Nipponggo

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RIZAL SHRINE
Calamba, Laguna
Tel No. (049) 544-2010

NAGCARLAN UNDERGROUND CEMETERY
Nagcarlan, Laguna
Tel No. (049) 563-8106

MARINDUQUE

Tourist Inns

TAHANAN SA ISOK
5 Canovas St., Isok 1, Boac, Marinduque
Tel No. (042) 332-1231, 332-2144
Fax No. (042) 311-1402
Classification Tourist Inn

THE BOAC HOTEL
Brgy. San Miguel, Boac, Marinduque
Tel Nos. (042) 332-1121, 311-1096
Fax No. (042) 332-2065
Classification Tourist Inn

MINDORO OCCIDENTAL

Hotel

SEA COAST HOTEL & RESTAURANT
Airport Road, San Roque 2, San Jose, Mindoro Occidental
Telefax No. 8137274
Classification Economy Class Hotel

MINDORO ORIENTAL

Hotels

FILIPINIANA CALAPAN RESORT HOTEL
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Classification Standard Class Hotel

MARCO VINCENT RESORT
San Isidro, White Beach, Puerto Galera
Tel No. 892-0309, 813-6328 • Fax No. 813-6329
E-mail reservations@marcovincent.com
Website www.marcovincent.com
Classification Standard Class Hotel

STARFISH INN & RESTAURANT
Big Lalaguna, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
Tel No. 523-8541, 404-0609, 523-8541
Classification Tourist Inn

PORTOFINO BEACH RESORT
Small Lalaguna, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
Telefax (043) 287-3227
Classification Apartel

Resorts

ATLANTIS DIVE RESORT
Sabang Beach, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
Tel No. 852-7515, 400 0216 Fax No. 817-7036
E-mail info@atlantishotel.com
Website www.atlantishotel.com
Classification Class "AA" Resort

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Bahiya, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
Tel No. 521-5260, 526-4594
Fax No. 526-0903, 536-5462
E-mail info@cocobeach.com
Website www.cocobeach.com
Classification Class "AA" Resort

LA LAGUNA BEACH CLUB
Big Lalaguna, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
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Classification Class "A" Resort

EL GALLEON BEACH RESORT & DIVE CAMP, INC.
Small Lalaguna, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
Tel No. 834-2974 Fax No. 551-8063
E-mail admin@asiadivers.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

OCEANA BEACH RESORT
Brgy. Dulangan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
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Website www.oceandive.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

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Tel No. (043) 287-3241, 287-3114
Fax No. (043) 287-3209
E-mail whitehouse@redsun.ph
Website www.redsun.ph
Classification Class "A" Resort

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Brgy. Parang, Calapan City
Tel No. (043) 288-6120 Fax No. (043) 288-5724
E-mail parang_beach@yahoo.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

GRAYWALL RESORT
White Beach, Puerto Galera
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Classification Class "A" Resort

PUERTO NIRVANA BEACH RESORT
Sitio Hondura, Brgy. Poblacion, Puerto Galera
Telefax: 524-5046, 524-8496, 524-5046
E-mail puertonirvana@yahoo.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

ANAHAW ISLAND VIEW RESORT
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E-mail anahaw@daican.com
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Sabang, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
Tel No. 892-1443 Telefax 830-0714
E-mail cdiver@vasia.com / info@waterexpedition.com
Classification Special Interest Resort

BIG APPLE DIVE RESORT
Sabang, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
Tel No. 526-7592, 892-2128
Fax No. 526-7685, 813-0662
E-mail bigapple@gnet.com
Website www.dive-bigapple.com
Classification Special Interest Resort

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Tel No. (043) 287-3226 Fax No. (043) 287-3426

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Big Lalaguna, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
Telefax (043) 287-3181

PALAWAN

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Malvar St., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel No. 831-5323, 638-9250 Fax No. 638-9255
E-mail lhpsales@legendhotel.com.ph
Website www.legendhotel.com.ph
Classification Standard Class Hotel

HOTEL FLEURIS
Lacao St., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel No. 851-6769 to 70 Fax No. 851-6763
E-mail fleuris@rpx.net/hfleurispalawan@yahoo.com
Website www.fleuris.com
Classification Standard Class Hotel

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Km. 3 South National Highway, Brgy. Tinguban, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel No. 751-3815 Fax No. 751-3816
E-mail info@asturiashotel.ph
Website www.asturiashotel.ph
Classification Standard Class Hotel

HILLSIDE RESORT
Sandiwa, Tinguban, Puerto Princesa City
Tel No. (048) 433-7318 Fax No. (048) 433-7851
Classification Tourist Inn

LOLA ITANG PENSION & RESTAURANT
Roxas St., Brgy. Maguinao-bgan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel No. (048) 433-2990
Classification Tourist Inn

MOANA HOTEL
Rizal Ave. Extension, Bancao-Bancao, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel No. (048) 434-4753, 434-4759
Fax No. (048) 434-5197
E-mail moanate@mozcom.com
Classification Tourist Inn

PUERTO PENSION
35 Malvar St., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel No. (048) 433-4149, 433-2969
Fax No. (048) 433-4148
E-mail ppension@pal-ccl.com
Website www.palawan
Classification Tourist Inn

SKYLIGHT APARTELLE
210-A Rizal Ave., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel No. 563-2566, 563-8779
Fax No. 563-2372
E-mail skylight-apartelle@yahoo.com
Website www.skylightapartelle.com
Classification Tourist Inn

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Bayantel (048) 196-2522 Telefax No. 744-3209
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E-mail amanpulo@amanresorts.com /
reservations@amanresorts.com
Classification Class "AAA" Resort

EL NIDO – LAGEN ISLAND RESORT
Lagen Island, El Nido, Palawan
Tel No. 894-5644 Fax No. 810-3620
E-mail elnido@mailstation.net
Website www.elnidoresorts.com
Classification Class "AAA" Resort

DOS PALMAS ARRECEFFI ISLAND RESORT
Honda Bay, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel No. 637-4226, 637-4236 Fax No. 637-4230.
E-mail info@dospalmas.com.ph
Classification Class "AA" Resort

CLUB PARADISE RESORT
Dimakya Island, Coron, Palawan
Tel No. 838-4956 to 63
Fax No. 838-4462, 838-4762
E-mail clubpara@info.com.ph /
clubpara@world.net.ph
Website www.clubparadisepalawan.com
Classification Class "AA" Resort

EL NIDO – MINILOC ISLAND RESORT
Miniloc Island, El Nido, Palawan
Tel No. 894-5644 Fax No. 810-3620
E-mail elnido@mailstation.net
Website www.elnidoresorts.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

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renz_cpr@snasia.com
Website www.crystalparadiseresort.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

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Usun Island, Coron, Palawan
Tel No. 375-2561, 376-2048 Fax No. 371-9928
E-mail divelink@epic.net
Website www.dive-link.com.ph
Classification Class "A" Resort

CAPARII BEACH RESORT
Bo. Parangiçan, Poblacion, San Vicente, Palawan
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E-mail palawan@mozcom / caparii@mozcom.com
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Fax No. 838-4462, 838-4762
E-mail info@elrioymar.com
Website www.elrioymar.com
Classification Class "A" Resort

CORAL BAY RESORT
Popotan Island, Coron, Palawan
Tel No. 375-2561, 376-2048 Fax No. 371-9928
Classification Special Interest Resort

LALLY & ABET BEACH COTTAGES
El Nido, Palawan
Tel No. 454-5656 Telefax 455-5656
E-mail info@lallyandabet.com
Website www.lallyandabet.com
Classification Special Interest Resort

KOKOSNUSS GARDEN RESORT
Brgy. 6 Poblacion, Coron, Palawan
Tel No. (0919) 448-7879
Classification Special Interest Resort

SUMMER HOMES BEACH RESORT & COTTAGES
Purok Pag-asa, Brgy. Port Barton, San Vicente, Palawan
Tel No. 533-6684, (0921) 401-6506
E-mail summerhouse@indigo.net.ph
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Classification Special Interest Resort

Museum

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Mendoza Park, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

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ASUNCION AGUILAR
Brgy. Sawacion, Busuanga, Palawan
Tel No. (0921) 496-8248

CAROLINA SARIEGO
Brgy. Sawacion, Busuanga, Palawan
Tel No. (0918) 461-2636

SOTERO ALARCON
Brgy. Sawacion, Busuanga, Palawan
Tel No. (0918) 677-9556

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Website www.villaescudero.com
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Brgy. Guisguis, Sariaya, Quezon
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E-mail paeng_lanluca@yahoo.com
Classification Special Interest Resort

PARAISO SA GUISGUIS BEACH RESORT CORP.
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Fax No. (02) 851 6642
Classification Special Interest Resort

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E-mail callosspa@yahoo.com
Website www.geocities.com/callosspa
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E-mail avilon@avilonzoo.com
Website www.avilonzoo.com

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CAMBRONERO, OLIVIA R.
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Tel No. 2492659
Language Spoken English/Nipponggo

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BIR official fails lifestyle check, charged

By Michelle V. Remo

A BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICIAL was charged with graft before the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday for failing a lifestyle check.

Mama Bae Marzoc, director of the BIR's regional office in Cotabato City, was alleged to have amassed wealth not commensurate with his income as a public servant.

Data from the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) showed that Marzoc owns 13 prime real estate properties, including three multimillion-peso homes, a five-door apartment building and other properties.

RIPS, a unit of the Department of Finance tasked with conducting lifestyle checks on government officials and employees, said Marzoc has no other source of income except his compensation as an employee of the BIR.

One of the houses, located in Bagua, Cotabato City, was estimated at P5 million. Another house in Marawi City was pegged at P4 million. He also owns another expensive home in Barrio Kakar, Cotabato City.

Officials from RIPS estimated Marzoc's networth at P15 million to P20 million. He declared only P2.58 million in his latest statement of assets, liabilities and networth (SALN).

Sandigan orders arrest of Camarines Norte gov

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY ORDERED the arrest of Camarines Norte Gov. Jesus O. Typoco Jr. due to a graft charge filed last February against him by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Associate Justice Edilberto Sandoval, anti-graft court's Second Division chair, signed the arrest warrant. He set Typoco's bail bond at P30,000.

Typoco was charged with graft following a complaint filed by Ildefonso Macaraig who claimed that the governor refused to settle his obligations amounting to P15 million with the businessman's firm.

Records showed that Macaraig's firm, Crown IBM Trading, delivered 7,219 wood-and-steel armchairs and different sets of gardening tools to the provincial government in December 2001. Macaraig said the delivery was covered by a contract he signed with the provincial government in 2001.

Prosecutors found prima facie basis to indict Typoco noting that the accused committed undue injury against the complainant by repeatedly ignoring demands for payment.

Copies of the arrest warrant were sent to the Daet station commander of the Philippine National Police, the PNP provincial commander of Camarines Norte and the National Bureau of Investigation regional director for the Bicol provinces.

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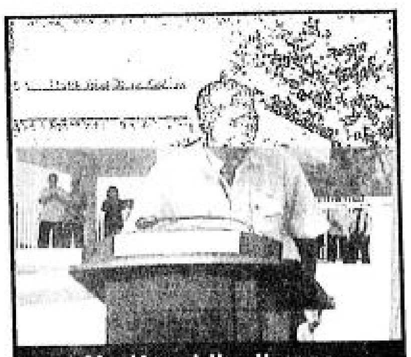
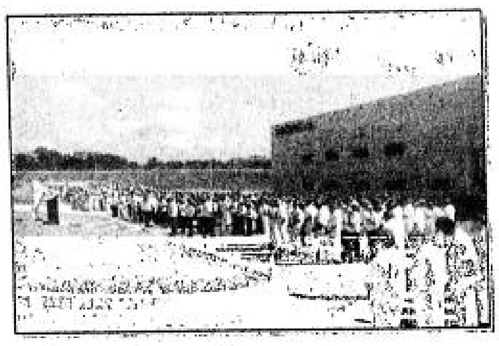


Mr. Kazuhiko Ikezoe
President & General Manager
Salutes the Associates



April 17, 2006 was a red letter day for Honda Philippines, Inc. (HPI), when it moved to its new factory at the First Philippine Industrial Park at Tanauan City, Batangas. This is another milestone in the company's colorful history. The factory was formally opened by its President and General Manager, **MR. KAZUHIKO IKEZOE** followed by a soft blessing officiated by 3 catholic priests.

A formal inauguration is set sometime in July 2006.

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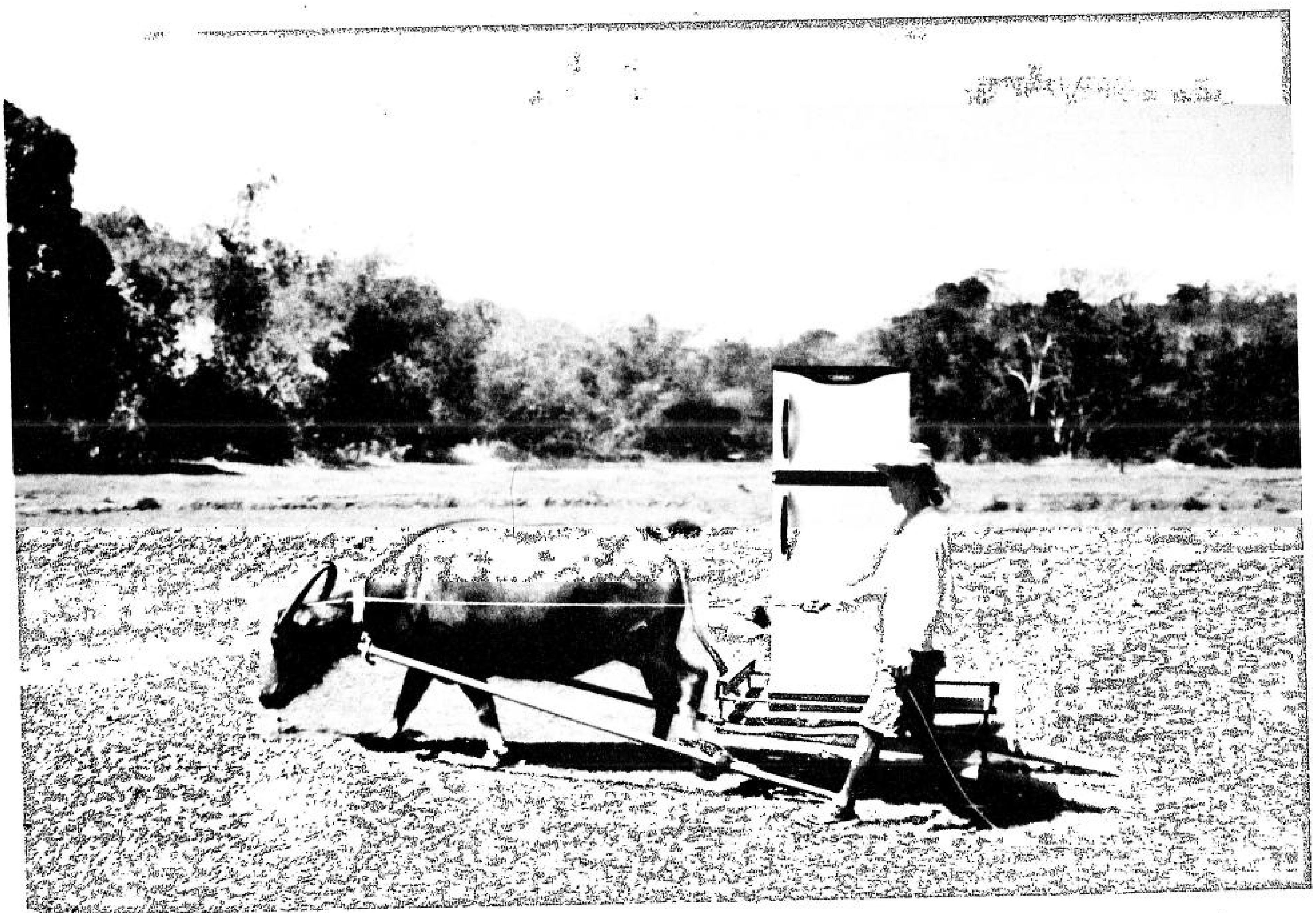

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Senate to resume probe of Garci, other scandals

From page A1

When regular session resumes next month, they want the House to probe the role of the Department of Interior and Local Government in the proposed Charter change, as well as demand the submission to Congress of the so-called Mayuga report on the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

"This is one road-block removed from the smooth functioning of Congress in the performance of its legislative and oversight functions," he said.

President Arroyo issued EO 464 on the day that then Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan testified on election cheating in Mindanao.

Their defiance of the presidential order not to testify prompted the military top brass to initiate court-martial proceedings against them.

Like a shot in the arm for senators, the Supreme Court voted to uphold the right of Congress to compel executive officials to appear at its inquiries. It voided the EO's provision requiring these officials, including generals and flag officers of the Armed Forces, and police officials from chief superintendent and up, to secure prior consent from Ms Arroyo.

Biazon hinted that the generals mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes as well as Sgt. Vidal Doble of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces would be among those who could be invited.

"They will have their day in the hearings," he said.

It was Doble who supposedly peddled the tapes purportedly containing wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and then Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on how to rig the results of the 2004 election.

Drilon: No escape

"We will revive the committee of the whole hearings once the (high court) decision becomes final," Drilon said in a phone interview. Chaired by Drilon, the committee of the whole called off its inquiry after only one hearing on Sept. 29 last year, following a snub by several government officials, who invoked EO 464.

Once convened again, the committee of the whole intends to summon all transport officials from the executive department and government-owned corporations and companies who had skipped its lone hearing on the NorthRail project in September, according to Drilon.

"The officials who were called previously but decided not to appear because of EO 464 will be invited again. They can no longer invoke EO 464," he said.

Drilon specifically singled out Jose Cortes Jr., president of the North Luzon Railway Corp. (NorthRail).

No lion's den

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Monetary Board member Juanita Amatong, Narciso Abaya of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and Jose Ma. Sarasola II of the Philippine National Railways were also no-shows.

The UP Law Center said in a study that the contract between NorthRail and the China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. Group to build a 32-km railway north of Manila might be void because it skirted "competitive public bidding," among other supposed violations.

Sen. Ralph Recto squelched Malacañang officials' fears that the ruling would pave the way for a "Senate inquisition."

"The fear that Cabinet men will be summoned to the Senate to be bamboozled is baseless," he said. "The scenario being painted by the Palace that senators wait in ambush for their men is without basis. The chamber's no lion's den."

Political witch-hunt

In the House, two senior administration lawmakers, Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin and House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, said Ms Arroyo could not be impeached for issuing EO 464 since it was only partially voided by the Supreme Court.

But Salapuddin also admitted that the ruling was a "great setback" to the administration.

"It will open the lid of a Pandora's box that will be exploited to the hilt by opposition solons in the Senate and the House," he said. "I am worried (about) this development as it will aggravate present concerns we have, like the high oil prices in the world market and the negative image we have abroad."

Echoing Malacañang's concern, Salapuddin expressed apprehension that this might signal an "open season for political witch-hunts."

He said the court ruling would surely embolden anti-Arroyo lawmakers "who are already gearing up on how to give the Arroyo administration a headache, using the process of congressional inquiries."

"The people are already sick and tired of too much politicking in our country. Our senators might as well focus on the national budget that will fund the government development agenda and the numerous bills from the House since there are only a few months left in the 13th Congress," he said.

Calls for resignation

The House minority, for its part, asked Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and all those who took part in drafting the EO to resign for placing the President in an embarrassing situation.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said that those responsible for "authoring, sponsoring and condoning the EO should bow down in shame and apologize to the Filipino people."

He said government lawyers directly involved in drafting the EO, from the secretary of justice and presidential chief legal counsel down to the presidential spokesperson, "should resign for giving the President wrong and terrible advice that induced her to issue an unconstitutional edict."

He said Ms Arroyo, "as an act of contrition, should ax those officials for embarrassing her and putting her on the edge of an impeachable offense."

Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Lakas, Cebu City) said Congress should not be used as a tool for political wrangling with the Palace.

Don't bully guests

"Let's respect the rights of every government official asked to face an investigation. Legislators are supposed to be honorable officials, thus, basic courtesy must dictate our actions in and out of the chamber. There are many ways of skinning the cat, so we shouldn't bully our invited guests," he said.

House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo filed a resolution directing the House committee on good government to investigate the role of the DILG in gathering signatures for the "people's initiative" to amend the Constitution.

Rep. Teodoro Casiño, for his part, filed House Resolution No. 1128 asking Congress to require the submission of the "complete and unaltered" Mayuga report on allegations of involvement of some military officers in alleged poll cheating.

SC ruling: Good fences make good neighbors

From page A1

tive and legislative branches had been there all along. But one of the two either could not see the fence or refused to honor it.

What the Court has done is tell the two that the fence has been laid out in the Constitution and to force them to see where the fence lies. In the process, while no new doctrine was laid down, greater clarity has been achieved. What remains is for the two branches to honor the division.

In a not surprisingly unanimous disquisition the Court merely revisited Sections 21 and 22 of Article VI and clarified the meaning and scope of "executive privilege."

Section 21 simply says "The Senate or the House of Representatives or any of its respective committees may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation in accordance with its duly published rules of procedure. The rights of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected."

Inquiry necessary

This provision which authorizes Congress to conduct investigations "in aid of legislation" did not exist in the 1935 Constitution. But even then it was recognized as a necessary adjunct to the power to legislate.

As a 1950 decision said, "the power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function. A legislative body cannot legislate wisely or effectively in the absence of information respecting the conditions which the legislation is intended to affect or change ..."

EO 464 blanket gag

And since executive officers are often in the best position to supply the needed information, Congress has the power to summon even department heads. The President may not block such summons. Thus the blanket gag imposed on executive officers by EO 464 was declared unconstitutional.

However, the Court also made clear that, should Congress abuse its power, those affected may seek remedy from the Court.

Section 21 is different from Section 22 which says: "The heads of departments may upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President, or upon the request of either House, as the rules of each House shall provide, appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments ... When the security of the State or the public interest so requires and the President so states in writing, the appearance shall be conducted in executive session."

To my recollection, this is the first time that the Court has had occasion to explain the meaning of the provision.

Colonial times

A similar provision, however, was already found in the Administrative Code of colonial times. The earlier provision said: "The Secretaries may be called, and shall be entitled to be heard, by either of the two Houses of the Legislature, for the purpose of reporting on matters pertaining to their Departments, unless the public interest shall require otherwise and the Governor-General shall so state in writing."

The 1973 Constitution, for its part had a provision on a "question hour," a feature of a parliamentary system of government designed to serve not so much as an aid to legislation but as an instrument for keeping administration in line. Thus the prime minister and Cabinet members could be "required to appear and answer questions and interpellations" to give an account of their stewardship.

The 1986 Constitutional Commission, however, found the "question hour" inconsistent with a presidential form of government. Thus, we have the present provision. It makes the appearance of department heads subject to the consent of the President. Although the Court decision calls this exercise a "question hour," it does so only by analogy with its counterpart in parliamentary practice.

Only for department heads

What is also important to note is that Section 22 applies only to "department heads" and not also to executive officials lower in rank. But the Court also clarified that when the hearing is being conducted under Section 21, even department heads may be compulsorily summoned.

The conclusion from all this is that, in every case, it is necessary to determine whether a hearing is being conducted under Section 21 or under Section 22 - which may not always be easy.

Finally, the Court clarified the meaning and scope of executive privilege. As the Court noted, however, the concept is not new in this jurisdiction. But it is more amply discussed in American jurisprudence.

Withhold information

Briefly and in simplest terms, it is the power of the President to withhold certain types of information from the public, from the courts, and from Congress. The first thing to note about it is that it is a privilege which can be asserted only by the President or by one authorized by the President. Secondly, it is not just one privilege but a cluster of privileges covering different subject matters. It can cover crucial military or diplomatic objectives, the identity of persons who supply information of violations of law, or internal deliberations within the executive office.

However, when asserted, it must be asserted in specific terms and, most importantly, the Court is the ultimate judge as to whether the privilege applies.

It is gratifying to note that Malacañang has announced it will honor the Court decision. Not that it really has much choice.

SC chief: The only winner is justice

From page A1

congressional inquiries.

Voting 14-0, the high court upheld the inherent right of Congress to compel the appearance of executive officials in congressional inquiries even as it stressed that the issue involving EO 464 did not only pertain to the Congress' right to know, but the people's right to participate in government affairs.

Possible appeal

Panganiban declined to talk about the possible impact of the court's ruling on pending legislative investigations, particularly in the Senate. *(Related story on this page.)*

"I can't comment on that because it is still subjudice because the contending parties still have 15 days to file their motion for reconsideration," he said.

The Office of the Solicitor General conceded it might not be realistic to expect the high court to reverse itself but it still left open the possibility that it would file a motion for reconsideration.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's EO 464 barred officials of the executive department, as well as the military and police, from appearing in congressional hearings without her permission.

But the court, in its decision, also ruled that the President was within her right to give prior consent to executive officials appearing during the question hour in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

A second look

"Although we know it would be hard to make them reconsider their votes, we are studying it to see if there are points that we can use to bring to the Supreme Court and ask them to effect a second view and re-study," said Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura, who has 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration.

"There could be aspects in the decision where the Court could change its mind, but not overthrow the entire decision," Nachura added.

Nachura said that his office was looking at the possibility of seeking re-examination of certain points in the decision, "including when and how executive privilege may be invoked."

Executive privilege

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said what was important was that the high court recognized the principle of executive privilege and that in legislative inquiries this could be invoked "under certain circumstances."

"From the start, the purpose of EO 464 was mainly to uphold the honor and dignity of the executive branch and Cabinet members against unwarranted insult and injury inflicted by Congressional inquiries," Bunye said in a statement. "There was never an intent to curb the public's right to know."

Bunye said the Palace was also thankful that the Supreme Court had set the parameters "under which inquiries in aid of legislation can no longer be abused and turned into inquiries in aid of libel, power play, grandstanding or destabilization."

An independent court

Bunye also said the decision showed the independence of the Supreme Court and thus "belies allegations that the Supreme Court, especially since many of them were appointed by the President, is not independent."

"In some instances, we were sustained. In some instances, we were turned down ... We we win some, we lose some," Bunye said.

The Philippine National Police appeared to have readily acceded to the high court ruling.

In a statement, the PNP said it "upholds (the) decision of the high tribunal declaring EO 464 unconstitutional."

But it added: "It is hoped that such jurisprudence will establish norms that will insure the attainment of the objective of any legislative investigation without harassing or disrespecting those whom it may invite or summon to appear before it."

Truth blocked?

The alleged harassment of government officials by lawmakers was one of the reasons cited by Malacañang when it issued EO 464 last year.

The EO effectively blocked efforts by lawmakers to ferret out the truth behind scandals rocking the Arroyo presidency, including her alleged role in rigging the results of the 2004 presidential election and the supposed involvement of her officials in a P728-million fertilizer fund scam, the controversial NorthRail project and other alleged irregularities.

"We are bound by professional duty to respect the ruling of the Supreme Court although we have yet to receive a copy of the decision," said the PNP spokesperson, Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

Pagdilao also said the PNP would still be guided by "prescribed administrative procedures" and would wait for further guidelines from Malacañang. *With reports from Chrisitne O. Avendaño, Luige A. del Puerto*

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Court dismisses illegal detention raps vs Ong, Cortez

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI COURT DISMISSED on Thursday serious illegal detention charges that the justice department filed against former top NBI official Samuel Ong, actor and opposition figure Rez Cortez, and two other co-accused for "detaining" an intelligence agent inside San Carlos Seminary in June last year.

In his order, Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 Judge Benjamin Pozon dismissed the criminal charges the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed against the accused for holding T/Sgt. Vidal Doble inside the seminary.

"After personally evaluating the [DOJ] resolution and the evidence...this court finds no probable cause for the issuance of warrant of arrests against the accused," Pozon said in his order.

Doble was an agent of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) and allegedly had a hand in the "Hello Garci" wiretapping operations during the 2004 elections.

He stayed with Ong inside the seminary where the former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director sought sanctuary after announcing he had in his possession "the mother of all tapes," the purported proof that the administration rigged the May 2004 elections.

Ong has gone into hiding.

In dismissing the charges, Pozon ruled that the crime of serious illegal detention was not committed.

Pozon cited Doble's affidavit, which showed that he stayed in the seminary from June 10 to June 13, 2005.

Under the law, the crime of serious illegal detention could only be filed by a person held against his will for more than three days.

Napolcom employee arrested for extortion

POLICE OFFICERS arrested this week a 56-year-old employee of the National Police Commission after she was allegedly caught extorting cash from a widow claiming her husband's pension.

Agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group said Carmen Reboredo, a fiscal examiner of Napolcom, faces graft and corruption charges.

They said Reboredo demanded P9,000 from Charito Perez Reyes, who was trying to claim the pension of her husband Armando, an officer of the Traffic Management Group who died in a motorcycle accident five years ago.

Supt. Nelson Yabut, the officer assigned to the case, said the Napolcom employee had already demanded and received P5,000 from the widow in exchange for the immediate release of the pension money. He said Reyes deposited the money in Reboredo's ATM account.

When a check amounting to about P200,000 was about to be released, Reboredo allegedly asked for an additional P9,000. Reyes sought the help of Napolcom Commissioner Miguel Coronel, who, in turn, directed the police to take action, the CIDG said.

The Napolcom, chaired by Interior Secretary Ronaldo "Ronnie" Puno, has regulatory powers over the 115,000-strong Philippine National Police.

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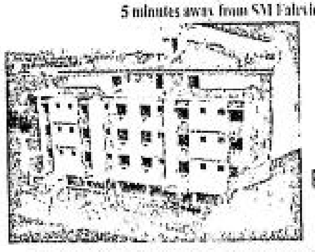

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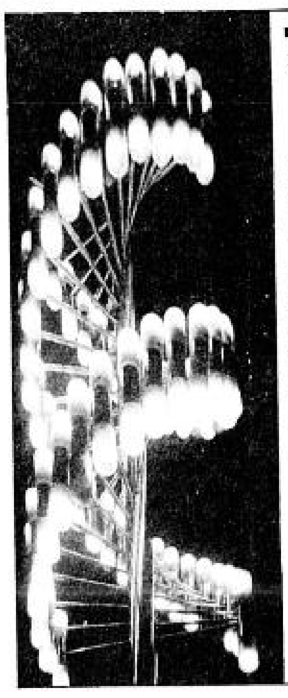

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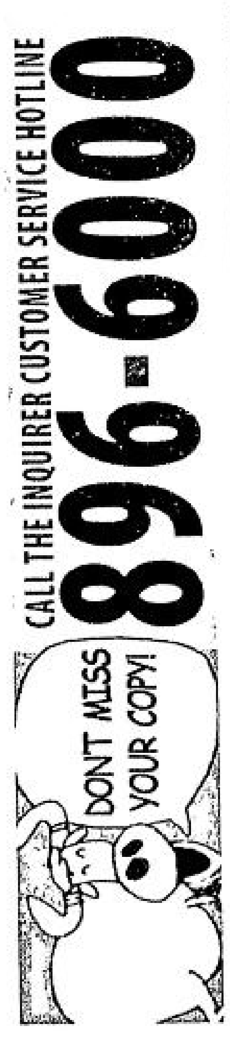

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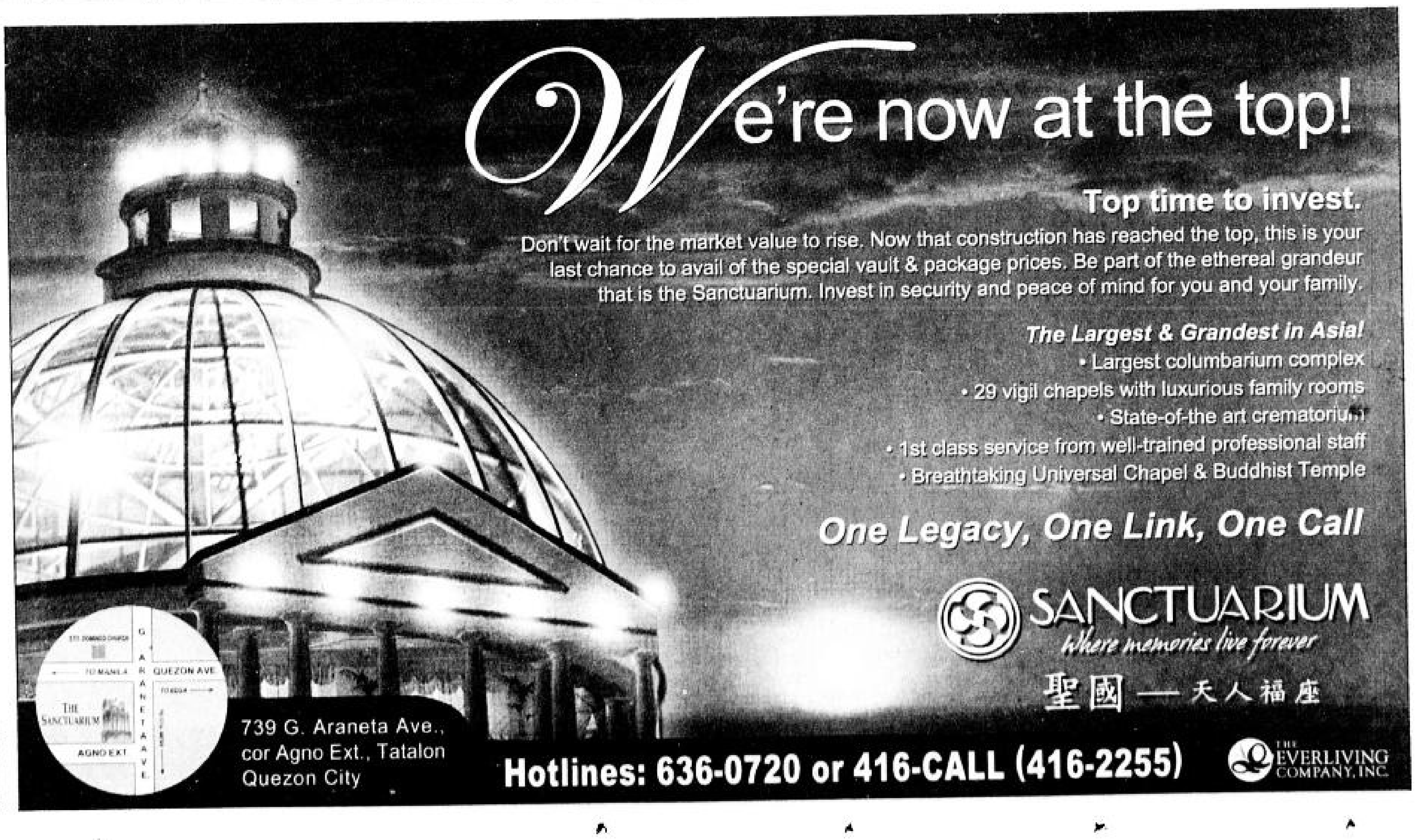

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Philip Salvador convicted of estafa

From page A1

and thus ordered the latter's acquittal.

Holding on to wife's hand

Throughout the promulgation, which lasted about an hour and a half yesterday morning, Salvador held on tightly to his wife's hand.

Before the hearing started, he could be heard humming religious songs to himself and reading passages from the Bible that he had brought with him.

When the judge ordered him to stand, Salvador tucked the Bible under his right arm. It slipped and fell to the floor a few minutes into the clerk of court's reading of the decision.

Salvador and his wife remained composed throughout the session, but both seemed to be holding back tears after the verdict was announced.

"There were a lot of errors. I never admitted that I received $100,000 from her [Decena]. But I am happy that my brother was acquitted," Salvador told reporters afterward.

"I don't feel angry at all. We all go through life's storms. All I know is that the Lord is with me always. This is not yet finished. I lift this all up to God," he said.

In her complaint, Decena accused Salvador and his brother of prodding her to invest in a remittance company in 2001. At the time she said she was in a relationship with Salvador.

He allegedly promised Decena that he would take care of marketing and promoting the company's services, using his popularity among the Filipino workers in Hong Kong.

However, Decena was to find out later that the money she had given Salvador in May 2002 to start the business was used for other purposes.

Salvador allegedly confessed to her that he used the money to pay obligations and loans which Salvador had incurred when he ran for vice mayor of Mandaluyong in the 2001 elections.

Salvador's lawyer, Roberto Abad, said they would file a motion for reconsideration.

"The court might reconsider its decision. We will point out the discrepancies in the evidence," Abad said.

Abad said they would take the appeal all the way to the Supreme Court if the verdict is not reversed at the Court of Appeals.

The actor remains free while the appeals process goes on and until the court decision is finally resolved.

With 3 daughters

Decena, who came to the hearing with her three daughters, cried upon hearing the decision. She told reporters that she was happy with Guray's decision because it proved that she was telling the truth.

"My past flashed before my eyes: How I loved him, how I trusted him and how he tricked us..." she said.

"When I arrived at the court, I was ready to face whatever the judge's decision was. I feel no regret that he will be jailed. All I can say is he deserves it," Decena said.

Her lawyer, Rizal Balbin, is certain that the verdict will be upheld.

"He was already convicted, it will be difficult to reverse the decision. We have presented solid evidence for his conviction," added Balbin.

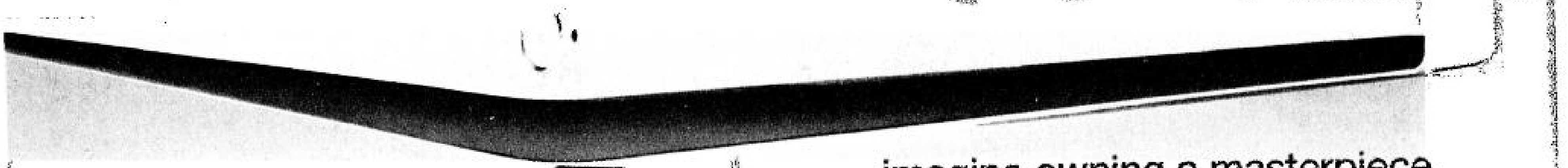
2 other cases

Yesterday's decision concerned only one of the three cases of estafa that Decena brought against the Salvador brothers.

In another case brought before the Las Piñas court, Decena claimed that she was deceived by the brothers into investing P1.2 million for a jeepney operation business that Ramon Salvador was to have managed. The case was dismissed in June 2005 and is now on appeal.

In the very first case that Decena filed against Salvador, Decena demanded payment of P15 million that Salvador allegedly borrowed from her in 2003. The case is still ongoing at the Makati court.

A WOMAN WRONGED, Christina Castillo-Decena: 'How I loved him, how I trusted him and how he tricked us.'



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RP, Malaysia, Indonesia urged to dismantle JI terror camps

MACTAN ISLAND—THE PHILIPPINES, Malaysia and Indonesia must act jointly against the regional militant network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) to dismantle its camps and limit its movements, a security expert said yesterday.

Rohan Gunaratna, head of the political violence and terrorism center at Singapore's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, said Indonesia must ban JI as an organization and oppose moves to free the group's spiritual leader, Abu Bakar Bashir, in June.

"Everything must be done to make sure that he is not released," Gunaratna told reporters on the sidelines of a counter-terrorism forum in Cebu.

"JI has gained very significant strength because it is now working with so many other groups in Indonesia. The Indonesian government must be encouraged to ban JI," he said.

"JI is still a legal organization in Indonesia. JI must be criminalized," he added.

He warned that JI, al Qaida's franchise in Southeast Asia, continued to pose a serious threat despite the arrests of senior leaders such as Bashir and Isamuddin Riduan, alias Hambali.

Noordin Mohammad Top, a Malaysian suspected of masterminding bombings on the Indonesian holiday island of Bali last year, is believed to have taken over JI's operational leadership.

Citing intelligence reports, Gunaratna said JI had training camps in Indonesia and the Philippines, producing 400 to 500 potential terrorists every year.

Gunaratna, who has written books on al Qaida and JI, said Southeast Asian states—particularly the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia—must cooperate more to defeat terrorism.

Those links should include common data bases, an exchange of personnel and joint training and operations, he said, describing these activities as "a new format for fighting terrorism."

The United States, Australia and Europe should support the region's counter-terrorism efforts because they have the resources and intelligence networks to check movements of people and funds, Gunaratna said.

"There are also considerable amounts of money still coming from the Middle East to fund terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia," he said, echoing concerns raised by other experts from 60 countries attending the forum.

Ellen Margrethe Loj, head of the UN Security Council's counter-terrorism committee, on Thursday urged Southeast Asian states to choke off international funding to stop bomb attacks.

Gunaratna said a small portion of millions of dollars in private funds for religious and relief groups for development projects in poor Muslim communities in the region were diverted to "hatred and violence." He said he believed the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines, continued to shelter one of two factions of JI hiding in Mindanao despite being in peace talks with Manila.

The other JI faction, led by Dulmatin and Umar Patek, were working with the smaller but more radical Abu Sayyaf group based in Jolo.

"The MILF has constantly lied that it is not harboring JI," Gunaratna said. "MILF leaders must be held accountable for the presence of JI in the southern Philippines." *Reuters*

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High court orders transfer of Rizal Alih trial to QC

SECURITY CONCERNS PROMPTED THE Supreme Court yesterday to order the transfer of the murder trial of Rizal Alih from Zamboanga City to Quezon City.

The high court granted the urgent petition filed by Zamboanga City Mayor Celso L. Lobregat on Jan. 24 seeking the transfer of Alih's trial from Zamboanga to any court in Metro Manila.

Alih, a former policeman, stands accused of killing 21 people, including Brig. Gen. Eduardo Batalla and Col. Romeo Abendan, during a hostage-taking incident in the Philippine Constabulary Camp in Cawa-Cawa, Zamboanga City, on Jan. 5, 1989.

Amid intense bombardment by government forces, Alih escaped and fled to Malaysia.

In 1994, Alih was arrested in Malaysia for killing a Marine. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. He was deported to the Philippines last January. *Armand N. Nocum*

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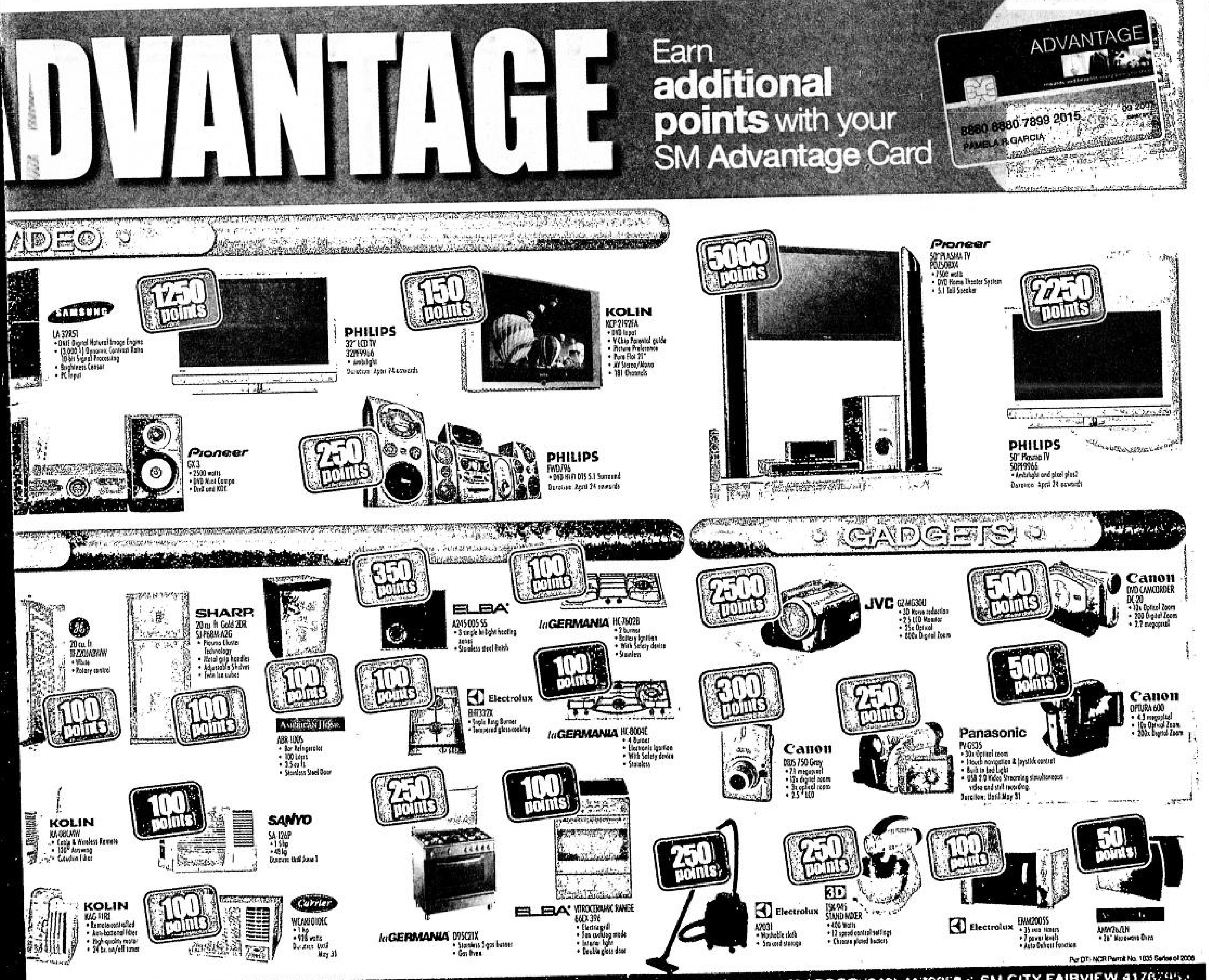
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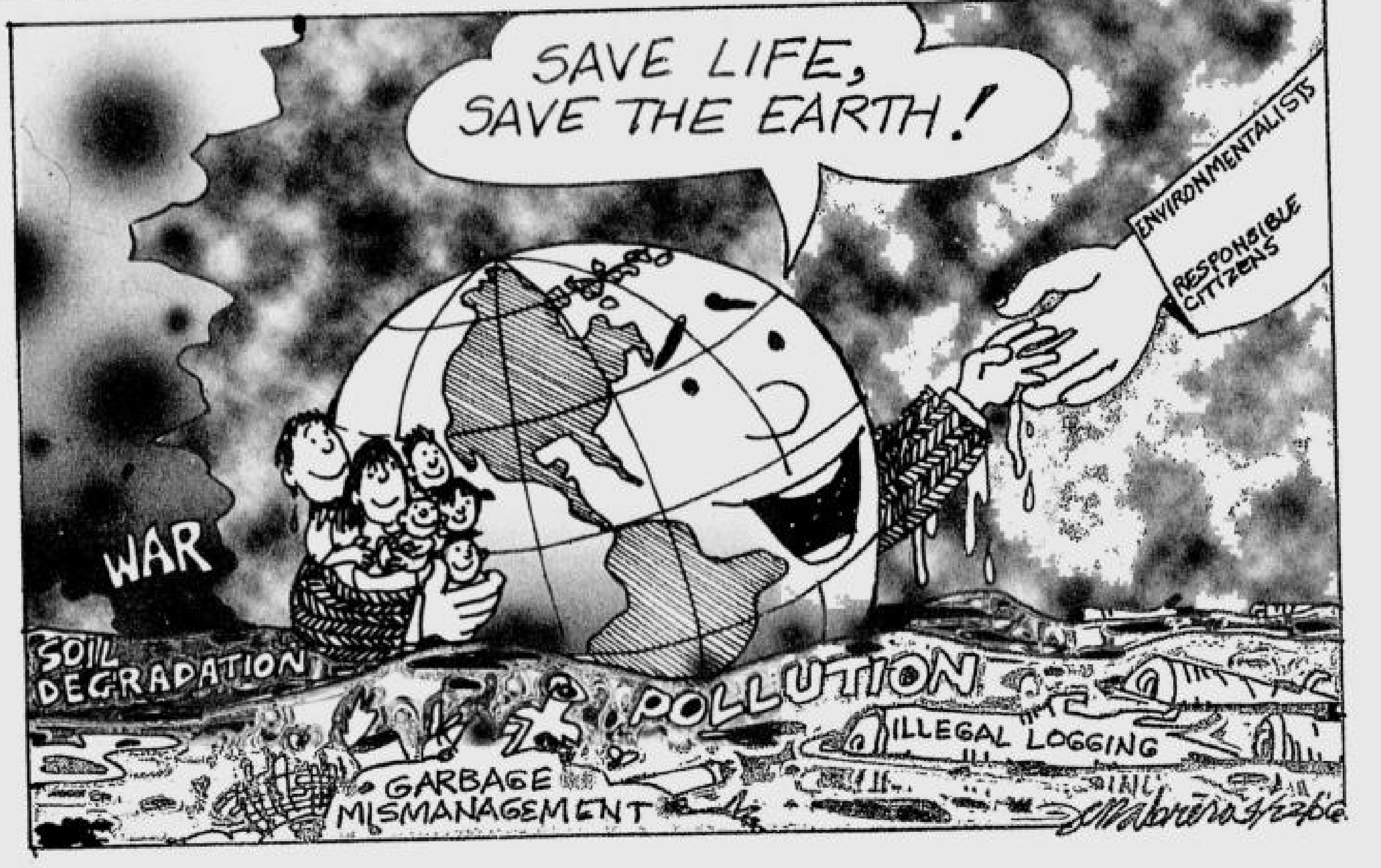


Limits on power

EDITORIAL

WE OFTEN HEAR THAT TOO MUCH ATTENTION is paid to rights and not obligations. This perennial concern is a valid one, and directly addresses the question of what makes a good citizen.

We do not, however, hear enough about how little attention is paid by officials to the other side of the democratic coin. If the citizenry should think as much of its obligations as it does its rights, then officialdom should think more about how one of the highest virtues for those in power is to recognize that might does not always make right.

Humility is hardly ever a defining characteristic of politicians. They are, after all, in a profession which requires that they step forward and proclaim to the people that they deserve to be followed and put in power. However, the politician who is capable of demonstrating genuine humility is not only a rare person, but one who is poised to be a statesman.

We have often heard individuals like Christian Monsod insist that inside every politician lies a statesman. The late Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma put it similarly: no one is beyond redemption. What they believe is not naïve; it is the often-expressed wish of generations of Filipinos. And it can be said that there have been times when Filipino politicians have shown themselves capable of statesmanship—if not consistently, then from time to time and at crucial times in our nation's history.

It is said that adversity can make an individual become great, just as it can reduce a person to bitterness and destructive anger. Facing seemingly insurmountable challenges and then overcoming them can help transform a politician into a visionary who outlines a path for moral and political regeneration for a people. Benigno Aquino Jr. was a perfect example of this. Salvador H. Laurel, when he endured what is unendurable for a politician—the subordination of his personal ambition to the nation's interest—by agreeing to be the running mate of Corazon Aquino instead of insisting on being the opposition standard bearer.

Since the present political crisis began, President Macapagal-Arroyo has certainly demonstrated grit and determination. She has also shown a growing confidence in herself that comes too uncomfortably close to arrogance. While to her and to those who serve her, everything she has done can be justified by the ferocity of the opposition to her, the country has paused and asked, far too often than should be the case, whether her ends truly justify her means.

She will not appreciate it, but we must return to the words of former President Corazon Aquino who said democracy is best restored through the ways of democracy. Since the President insists she is defending democracy, we ask: Is she defending it by the ways of democracy? If, over the past two decades since democracy was restored, it has been defended always by rejecting tools for the preservation of power that Ferdinand Marcos used, can the President truly say she has remained faithful to that post-Edsa democratic tradition?

We often hear her advisers say that the President is not authoritarian because the country has not seen any overtly authoritarian acts on the part of the state. They say no journalists are actually in jail, and there has been no repression on the scale of 1972. That is a selective and self-serving insistence on the part of those who are conscious that they cannot afford to ape Marcos but who have no philosophical disagreement with the Marcosian view that power must be held on to at all costs.

No journalists are being jailed en masse, but they are being liquidated on a sustained and regular basis. Congress is still in existence, but the effort is underway to transform it into something much more politically manageable. Its mandate to exercise oversight over the actions of the Executive has been impeded by executive issuances unprecedented both in their form and the manner in which they have been enforced. All of which do not inspire confidence.

What limits on power does the President set for herself? Hardly any. And that is why she has to be constantly cautioned by the media, including foreign ones like The New York Times, and held back by the Supreme Court, like it did the other day by striking down Executive Order No. 464.

Dual citizenship

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NATIONALITY IS THE TIE THAT BINDS AN individual to his country, from which he can claim protection and whose laws he is obliged to obey. It is the status through which he may be represented by his state in its dealings with other states in the family of nations.

The term is often used interchangeably with citizenship, which, however, is more internal than international in its application. It has a limited scope and may apply to certain members of the state and not to the rest of the people who owe it allegiance. Thus, during the American regime in this country, Filipinos and Americans were both considered nationals of the United States vis-à-vis other states, but Filipinos were not entitled to certain rights of American citizens like the right to vote or run for public office in their country.

We were then covered by a different set of laws that, unless otherwise provided, were not also applicable to American citizens or their other colonies. The same relationship was true of the **subject**, the monarchial equivalent of the democratic **citizen**, like the Malayans and the South Africans when they were under the sovereignty of the British Empire. They were governed under their respective municipal laws and not the municipal law of England.

Nationality may be acquired by birth or by naturalization. An individual acquires the nationality of the place where he is born *jure soli* or the nationality of his parents *jure sanguinis*. Naturalization, on the other hand, is a formal process by which a foreigner acquires, voluntarily or by operation of law, the nationality of another state.

A person usually has only one nationality but there are times when he may find himself owing allegiance to more than one country because of the concurrent application to him of their separate citizenship laws. For example, a child born to a Filipino parent in the United States would be a citizen of the Philippines under the *jus sanguinis* and at the same time a citizen of the United States under the *jus soli*. There is also the doctrine of indelible allegiance, under which a person naturalized in another country without the consent of his original state is still considered a citizen of that state.

The person with more than one nationality will usually not change that exceptional status and prefer instead to enjoy the best of both worlds, the one usually for emotional reasons and the other for convenience.

According to former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, there are close to 8 million Filipinos who, having acquired a new nationality abroad, are still devoted to the land they have abandoned. But although they still pine for their former country, they nevertheless are reluctant to leave their adopted country to which they have also become attached. They long, in short, to become Filipinos again while still remaining foreigners.

Affected by their sentimentality, Congress now allows dual citizenship and permits natural-born Filipinos to enjoy the rights they used to have in this country before they acquired a new citizenship abroad. Under Rep. Act 9225, which became effective in 2003, such former Filipinos may re-acquire their Philippine citizenship by simply taking the prescribed oath of allegiance to the Philippines. Natural-born Filipinos who are naturalized in other countries after the effectivity of the law shall **retain** their Philippine citizenship, subject to the same conditions prescribed for its **re-acquisition**. The unmarried minor children of those who re-acquire Philippine citizenship will also be considered citizens of the Philippines.

Significantly, the required oath of allegiance does not contain the usual renunciation of allegiance to any and all other states, thereby impliedly allowing continued allegiance to the adopted state. The usual absolute renunciation is, however, required from those seeking public elective office or appointed to public office in the Philippines, which would make them citizens exclusively of this country again. Exercise of the right of suffrage or to practice a profession is subject to the usual statutory requirements.

Enjoyment of the privileges offered by the law is contingent on the adopted state permitting its beneficiaries to remain its citizens notwithstanding their reacquisition or retention of Philippine citizenship. If the foreign state considers their taking advantage of Rep. Act No. 9225 as cause for the forfeiture of their naturalized citizenship, their status as dual citizens will end.

Former Filipinos who have been or will be naturalized in another country will have no problem if such country will not mind sharing their affection with the Philippines. By its Rep. Act No. 9225, our country has manifested its broad-mindedness on the matter, but other countries may feel otherwise and demand total devotion from its citizens, including the naturalized foreigner. The naturalized Filipino must then make a crucial choice between the country he has left but still loves and the greener pastures of his adopted land.

A slap on the wrist

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE SUPREME COURT, ACCORDING TO DATA published in the NSCB's 2005 Philippine Statistical Yearbook, has a case outflow (defined as the summation of cases decided/resolved, cases archived, cases transferred to other salas/courts, and cases with proceedings suspended during the reference period) that reached 5,691 in 2004. This is about 120 cases a week over a 48-week year. Most of these, I am given to understand, are either decisions or resolutions, so that's a lot of work.

It would be interesting to find out how many of these could be considered of national significance, but there is no doubt that two of the decisions handed down this week fit that description: one declaring a presidential muzzle order on her subordinates unconstitutional, and the other declaring another presidential order for a national ID system for government employees constitutional. Unfortunately, I have not accessed either of these decisions, but they should make for interesting reading.

What I did get to read, however, is a Supreme Court en banc resolution, dated March 28, 2006, on a case that involves the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), the Comelec and the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines (ITFP). This column traced the time-line of that case some time last month, but a short summary would not be amiss:

In late 2003, the ITFP asked the Court to invalidate the contract for the supply of automated counting machines that the Comelec had entered into with MPei. The ITFP's petition was granted on Jan. 13, 2004, with the Court ordering the OMB to "determine the criminal liability, if any, of the public officials involved in the said contract." The next day, the OMB (under Simeon Marcelo) ordered the Field Investigation Office (FIO) to conduct an in-depth investigation of the alleged anomalies, with the resident ombudsman for the Comelec also conducting an initial investigation. By Oct. 6, 2004, the FIO had finished its work and submitted to the deputy ombudsman for Luzon (Marcelo had inhibited himself) its findings, which in essence found that the election commissioners involved had criminal liability and should be charged. A preliminary investigation was the next step.

The case against the commissioners was deemed submitted on Dec. 23, 2004, the date when they filed with the OMB their joint comment.

In December 2005, the ITFP went to the Supreme Court again to complain about the slowness of the OMB. It followed this up with a supplemental complaint in January this year, asking the Court to declare the OMB in contempt of court for its failure to comply with the Court's January 2004 directive. Last Feb. 14, the Court issued a resolution directing the OMB to show cause why it should not be held in contempt, and to manifest compliance with its directive.

With great alacrity on Feb. 24 (see how fast it can work when it wants to?), the OMB gave a 44-page reply, wherein it explained why it should not be held in contempt. The Court's directive was actually just a "referral," the OMB contended, and as a constitutionally independent body, it "had no duty to render reports" to the Court. Moreover, it claimed that the Court's Jan. 13, 2004 decision did not specifically order it to make such reports. The OMB comment, however, listed all the activities that it had undertaken in regard to the case, since the Court issued the directive-cum-referral in January 2004. But there was one glaring omission: nowhere in those pages did it say, after more than two years of fact-finding and investigation, whether or not it was able to determine criminal liability on the part of public officials involved in the invalidated contract.

The Court's March 28 en banc resolution was in response to this OMB opus. It made mincemeat of the OMB's reasoning, showing where it was flawed and concluding that there "is no excuse for disregarding or disobeying an order of this Court." The Court said it was "sternly reminding" the OMB that it would not hesitate to exercise its power of contempt against anyone (including the OMB) who failed to observe due respect for its directives. Then it pointed out that it was the constitutionally mandated duty of the OMB to "act promptly on complaints ... and ... in appropriate cases, notify the complainants of the action taken and the result thereof." It stressed that its January 2004 decision was a directive, not a referral and expressed "surprise" over the "hesitation and quibbling" of the OMB, "considering that even without this express directive," the OMB should have taken it upon itself to conduct an investigation *motu proprio*.

After all that huffing and puffing, one would have expected the Court to blow the OMB house down, by declaring it in contempt (with the appropriate punishment), and giving it a final deadline, after more than two years, to comply with its order to determine the Comelec officials' criminal liability. But no, the Court's resolution merely "NOTED" the comment of the OMB. And "DIRECTED" it (caps theirs), under pain of contempt (again!) to report "once every three months" the steps it has taken to determine the criminal liability of public officials, starting on or before June 30, 2006 "until the matter is finally disposed of."

In other words, it said "naughty, naughty" to the OMB, gave it a slap on the wrist and gave it an implicit nod to disregard its constitutional obligation to act promptly, so long as it gave reports every three months.

The mountain labored, and brought forth a mouse.

Hearings in aid of legislation

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE IS A REASON TO CELEBRATE THE CONtinued independence of the judiciary as it struck down certain provisions of EO 464 as unconstitutional and curtailing the people's right to information. The unanimous ruling makes it most convincing. What impressed me most, however, was the Court's attempt to strike a balance between the executive and legislative branches as it sought to point out each branch's responsibility. Predictably, media accounts seemed to gloss over this attempt at balance, but this is understandable. The media perceive themselves to have suffered from recent administration moves to restrict various freedoms.

* * *

The attempt at balance can be gleaned from the Court's ruling that Congress may compel executive officials to appear in hearings "in aid of legislation," while restricting "executive privilege" to the President, who has to state the reasons for invoking it. Lesser officials cannot invoke it. At the same time, the Court also said the Palace can ban officials from appearing at congressional inquiries, such as the "question hour," that are perceived to be unrelated to pending legislation. But this is the crux of the matter: just what constitutes "in aid of legislation"? This term is perhaps the most abused, next to "integrity."

* * *

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was quick to appeal to the ecstatic senators not to use the ruling as a "license" to employ their powers of inquiry "to harass public officials or to push a particular political agenda, as we have seen in the past." The record of Congress, particularly the Senate, in political harassment has not been admirable. In fact, if EO 464 has given rise to criticisms about the Palace's attempt to gag officials on irregularities, the hearings have also been increasingly seen as a gross abuse of the senators' investigative powers, an impeachment all over again but in another guise.

* * *

Last week, this column cited how the investigation into the Garci tapes has dragged on in the Senate defense committee through 11 hearings in the past year, but no report has been issued by the committee till now. Even more remote is the prospect of legislation springing from it, especially with mid-term elections due in 2007. I also recall how, at the height of investigations into alleged *jueteng* activities of the First Family, former Senate President Jovito Salonga criticized the current practice in Congress of letting just anyone appear at the hearings, without even a semblance of screening. He recalled that when he served as committee chair of sensational House hearings, he made sure a legal staff first screened prospective witnesses to determine the basis for their appearance.

* * *

Luckily the magistrates seem aware of this abuse, as they warned Congress that the power of legislative inquiry may be broad but not unlimited. The Court asked Congress to indicate in its invitation what possible statute prompts the need for the inquiry, in addition to stating the subject and questions arising from it. But considering how greatly abused the powers of inquiry have been, I would have wanted the Court to be more explicit about ways to curb this abuse.

* * *

If our political system still lurches like a wayward train, our economy seems to be slowly but surely moving along. The strength of the peso becomes more significant in the light of skyrocketing oil prices. Last February, our exports amounted to $3.3 billion, a 9.8 percent gain from last year. The outsourcing business, which allows us to earn dollars without sending workers abroad, continues to grow and is expected to post a 42 percent increase this year. Tax collections are picking up, while the bad loan ratio of banks eased in February to 8.27 percent, a seven-year low. The government plans to pour P410.4 billion in the next three years into infrastructure development and the like. That began last year when GMA said the P35 billion savings from the 2005 budget deficit would be used for projects with social impact such as cheaper rice, health programs, education and farm-to-market roads. Last January, foreign direct investments totaled $262 million, up by $5 million from a year ago and the amount would have been larger if there was no political turmoil. Japan is reported to be lifting its aid suspension soon. Throw in the bright assessments of foreign banks like the Dutch giant ABN-Amro and credit rating agencies, and it's obvious that the economy is truly recovering. Let's not stop the momentum.

* * *

The dispute between the two factions of the Liberal Party will be heard by the Comelec next week, and Senate President Franklin Drilon can be expected to try to show that he's still in control of the party. Last April 5, he gathered about 40 members of what was claimed to be the LP national executive council (Neco) at Club Filipino to approve a resolution opposing Charter change. But a party provision says that while one-fourth of the 99 to 101-member Neco may transact business, the adoption of a party position on a major policy issue, such as Cha-cha, needs the approval of the majority of the Neco. This was not the case at Club Filipino. In addition, LP stalwart Ely Quinto points out that six of the 15 people the Drilon faction nominated as new Neco members were absent, forcing it to nominate four more. Quinto lamented that Drilon has been selective in the application of party rules, invoking them when it suits his group and taking shortcuts when they work against them.

The big problem the Drilon faction has to tackle at the Comelec is that last March 22, 58 members of the Neco affirmed the decision of some 700 LP local officials to oust him as party president. As one LP stalwart mused, if the majority of your party's governing council do not recognize you as head, you must be in trouble.

Singing with the Rentheads

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MY DAUGHTER AND I GOT TO GREENBELT 3 about 6 p.m. to catch "Rent." We were there mainly because we were eager to join in on the "sing-along." (Newspaper ads had announced that "singing is allowed" during screenings.) But when I asked the woman at the ticket counter if there would be singing, she said the audience could sing along only during the last full show at 11 p.m. "But if we want to start singing, will we be allowed?" I asked. "Oh please, ma'am," she pleaded, "please don't start singing!"

I guess you could call us "Rentheads" because we'd already seen the movie version of the musicale during the benefit screening for the Remedios AIDS Foundation, and watched the local staging twice—yes twice—mainly because we wanted to observe how two different casts would tackle the material. My daughter had also memorized both lyrics and dialogue, listening to the soundtrack so many times she'd practically worn the CD down.

And now we also wanted to sing "Rent." Did you think puny rules about singing only during the last screening could stop us? So we sang along—albeit somewhat under our breath save for a few favorite songs—even as we could overhear others inside the theater humming or singing along.

At the movie's end, as we exited the theater singing "No Day But Today," we passed other pairs and groups and they, too were singing softly. How many of us were afflicted with the Last Song Syndrome that evening, I wonder?

* * *

IT was really strange that we would go to all that trouble to watch "Rent" again, with or without the singing, because we didn't even much like the movie version. All right, director Chris Columbus has given Rentheads a faithful, by-the-book and even fond rendering of the musical. And he used the original Broadway cast, even, with the exception of Daphne Rubin Vega who created "Mimi," but who was pregnant at the time of filming and was replaced by Rosario Dawson.

But I for one had expected an edgier movie, a dizzying, hyper-kinetic, confounding and confusing production, with the same dazzling impact that watching the stage version for the first time would have. But while the musical left us feeling infused with a sense of power and daring, falling into the world of East Village bohemians singing about love, friendship and non-conformity (no matter our own boring real lives), the movie only reminded us that "Rent" itself had already joined the entertainment mainstream

A reviewer has argued that a major problem with the movie was that the cast members were at least a decade older than when they first opened "Rent." Indeed they seemed to lack much of the youthful fire, the hunger and the anger that lay at the heart of the musical.

Despite these reservations, though, "Rent" the movie is still vastly more entertaining and moving than any of the current cinematic offerings. And there's always the tantalizing possibility of singing along with other Rentheads.

* * *

SIX women pose nude in an inside spread of the latest issue of Marie Claire, the latest in the line of glossies put out by Summit Publications. But while other magazines might have women posing in the buff—or in the nearly buff—for purposes of titillation or to fuel testosterone-driven fantasies, the "real" women in this pictorial project not so much sensuality as confidence.

While models in conventional nude shots try hard to project "come-hither" messages, the women posing for an article called "We Think We're Sexy!" look not so much sexy as healthy, in the sense of glowing well-being, not necessarily generous physique.

To be sure three of the women posing in the nude are "*malusog*," a term that really means healthy but has been co-opted by polite society to mean over-endowed, or just plain overweight. But as Blaise, a marketing associate, proclaims: "Being sexy comes from within."

The editors of Marie Claire designated the current issue their "Love Your Body" issue, with an article on "body love" that is not what you think it is, but on "messages" you can send yourself on valuing your body, appreciating your looks, and tapping your inner sex goddess.

But more than the article's practical advice, the pictorial of "real" women with less-than-perfect bodies brings the message home.

* * *

AMERICAN actor Jamie Lee Curtis once created quite a splash some years back when she allowed a magazine to publish a picture of her unembellished, un-air brushed nude body to prove that middle-aged women need not be embarrassed about or apologetic for their figures—thunder thighs, bulging abdomens, flabby arms and all.

So many women responded with letters and e-mail filled with gratitude for the "positive" message her picture sent, said Curtis, that she was convinced she had tapped onto an epidemic of self-loathing among women her age. And by defying the raised eyebrows and snotty remarks of the public by showing off her physique, Curtis was standing in for every woman who had ever endured the tortures of the corset or hidden beneath the folds of a triple-X track suit.

Middle-age still lies far in the horizon for the six women in Marie Claire, but already we can tell that when gravity begins to do its work and dimples of cellulite, not to mention liver spots appear, they will still believe in their innate sexiness, and defy time, age and public opinion.

In fact—and I say this not just to Blaise, Ginny, Bam, Carmine and the two Biancas but to all younger women—it even gets better the older you get. Your body may no longer be able to return to the svelte, sleek and sporty form of your youth, but guess what? You no longer care! In place of your body, you have yourself.

Is France unreformable?

WORLD VIEW

Raphaël Hadas-Lebel

IT ALL BEGAN A YEAR AGO WITH THE FRENCH "No" in the referendum on the European constitution. It continued last fall with the wave of violence in the suburbs. Now, France has again brought itself to the world's attention with weeks of street demonstrations against the "contract of first employment" (CFE) proposed by Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin to address high youth unemployment.

These three sets of events, different as they are, together illustrate several deep-seated characteristics of social life in France.

First, France has found it difficult to adjust to the demands of globalization. Beyond ordinary dissatisfaction with economic problems, the failed referendum in May 2005 expressed the rejection by an important part of the French electorate of the discipline imposed by EU policies ensuring free movement of people, goods and capital—and thus of the primacy of economic competition. In a similar vein, last fall's explosion of violence in the suburbs reflected the frustrations of disoriented young people facing the grim prospects that a modern economy offers to those who lack proper training and education.

The young are also at the center of the most recent protests, but this time, the disaffected include all strata of French youth, including university graduates. In combating the CFE, they express their refusal to accept a precarious life outside the French model of job security that their parents enjoyed in the context of a profoundly different economy.

There is something very French about all this, because, while the economic rules of the game have changed throughout Europe in the last couple of decades, the need for greater labor-market flexibility seems to have been accepted more easily in most other countries.

In Spain, under a socialist government, roughly one-third of wage earners are working on temporary contracts; the percentage is even higher for the young. In Italy, greater employment flexibility was introduced by the Prodi government in 1997, and further strengthened under the so-called Biagi Law of 2003.

In Germany, too, the coalition agreement between the Social Democrats and the Christian Democrats includes a provision that extends from six months to two years the trial period during which an employee can be dismissed without explanation—the same duration contemplated in Villepin's CFE law.

In all these European countries, the new employment laws seem to be accepted as inevitable.

In France, by contrast, the statist tradition—which, as Tocqueville so aptly observed, harks back to the Ancien Régime, and which is equally shared today by both the Gaullist and socialist ideologies—is strongly linked to a marked distaste toward the strictures of economic liberalism. Since the French Revolution, the imperative of equality has often triumphed over the concern for liberty. As a result, the French are enamored with the welfare state in all its manifestations.

Not even the obvious failures of the French social model in today's environment—mass unemployment (reaching 25 percent among the young), huge public deficits, the blockage of social mobility—have diminished its public prestige. It would be much more logical to take inspiration instead from the Scandinavian model of "flexisecurity," which combines employment flexibility and social security (albeit at the cost of a tax burden that France would not easily accept).

Add to all this the French preference for ideological confrontation and the absence of a culture of negotiation and compromise, to say nothing of consensus, and one can understand why so many reform projects in France end up being contested in the streets. Indeed, quite significantly, most observers have automatically associated the recent disturbances with those of May 1968, which continues to hold a strange fascination for the French. In truth, however, other than reflecting the French preference for the politics of the street, the two phenomena have nothing in common.

So is France unreformable? Certainly not. The country has been transformed profoundly in recent decades. Whether it is the breakup of public monopolies, such as electricity, gas, telecommunications and even the post office, or the replacement of military conscription by a professional military, or pension reform, France has changed much more than is commonly believed. This is particularly true with respect to French companies, which have remarkably adapted to the demands of international competition.

But much remains to be done: the entire educational system, up through the university level, requires serious reform, and many taboos regarding employment rules, social security and the functioning of the state must be questioned. What the experience with the CFE shows is not that reform is impossible, but that it cannot be unilaterally imposed. Time must be taken for explanation, consultation and negotiation.

In a society like France, marked by uncertainty about the future and in great need of having its self-confidence restored, the time taken to build consensus and create legitimacy for further reforms will certainly be well spent.

Project Syndicate

Raphaël Hadas-Lebel, author of "101 Words about French Democracy," is a member of the Conseil d'Etat and professor at the Institut d'études politiques in Paris. The views expressed here are his personal opinions.

Cycle of learning

YOUNG BLOOD

Monique dela Peña

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT "COMMENCEMENT" MEANT WHEN I graduated from sixth grade four years ago. I thought it was just another word for "graduation."

But one day, my dad asked me, "Do you know what 'commencement' means?"

Sheepishly, I told him, "No."

"Commencement means a new beginning," he explained. "A new beginning of learning. The learning never stops. It continues to run in a cycle."

Frankly, I don't remember anything of significance from my graduation. I didn't feel a burst of excitement or joy when I was handed my diploma by our directress. I was just 'sfied that I had passed Grade 6. I faked a smile as I received the diploma. And I didn't pay attention to what the guest speaker said, but instead allowed my mind to wander.

I couldn't wait to escape from grade school. I had traveled a rough road there. It was in grade school that I felt I was no good at all. I felt I would always be poor in math.

My homeroom teacher would always tell my parents during the parent-teachers conference that my hearing problem was the reason for my academic woes. It was because of this that I felt demoralized. I was under a teacher who pointed to my hearing problem as the cause of everything that went wrong. She even predicted that I wouldn't finish high school.

I didn't want my hearing impairment to get in the way of my goal, which has always been to get good grades. It has been my dream from childhood to pass the college entrance tests to the University of the Philippines or Ateneo. It was because of this dream that I struggled hard despite my hearing problem. I wanted to prove to myself that I could be among the best. I believed that there was always room for improvement. And told myself to keep doing math exercises so I would be good at it.

When we went to my brother's graduation, I remembered my own. It was of no importance to me. I was feeling bitter although I was glad that I was going to the next level.

My brother had no problem with his academics. His grades were always good. His homeroom teachers always praised him for doing so well. He has no hearing problem.

The pain that I carry with me every day is a gift. My hearing impairment has made me strong and determined. I have parents who support me and encourage me to strive to do my best. They told me that despite the pain, I could cope with high school life. They believed in me.

The Lord has never failed to enlighten me. I pray every night that I would do better. I wouldn't be what I am now if it weren't for the Lord's guidance and love.

Grade 7 was another tough year, but I enjoyed it more than the lower grades. I was able to adjust quickly to the demands of high school life. Grade 7 is a transition year, and I'm glad I went through it because it helped me prepare for high school. It gave me confidence that I would survive high school.

I have finished three years of high school already. And here I am, preparing for my college entrance tests. I have learned so many things about myself.

When I was in seventh grade, I discovered that I had a knack for storytelling. I will never forget the day I told the story of "The Ugly Duckling." All my classmates roared with laughter.

Again, I did some storytelling in first year high school. This time, it was in a class literary presentation to which parents, teachers and students were invited. "The Ransom of the Red Chief" made me better known as a storyteller.

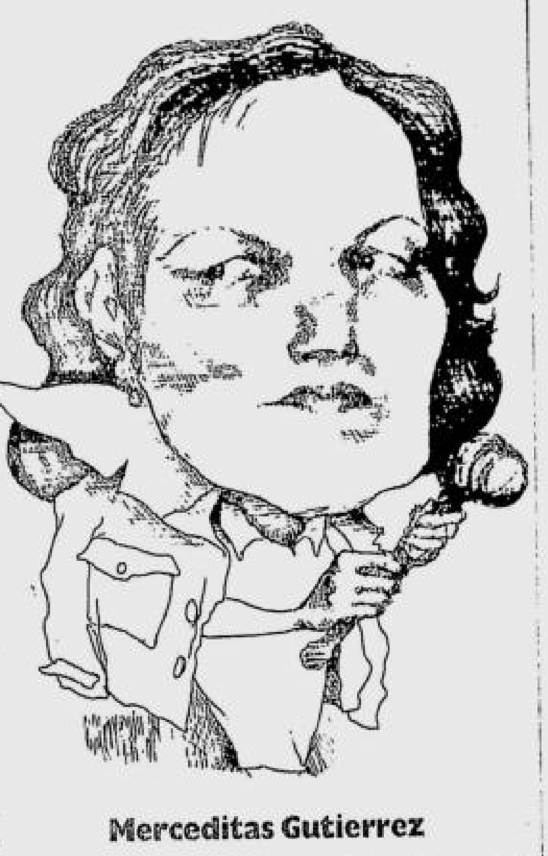
My storytelling got even better in third year. "Ang Dalaga ni Ka Bestra," a story about a gay person, earned me recognition as the best storyteller in Filipino in the whole high school community.

I will be a senior when the school year opens next June. I want to make my last year in high school worth remembering. And I want to make the commencement exercises a significant event this time around. I want to receive my diploma with pride and happiness. I will pay attention to what the guest speaker has to say. Best of all, I will graduate with flying colors.

But my graduation is going to be another new beginning. Just like my dad said, the cycle of learning is endless. I look forward to greater challenges when I enter college.

Monique dela Peña, 17, is an incoming high school senior at the Maria Montessori Foundation.

IN THE NEWS



Merceditas Gutierrez

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Courts on trial

BECAUSE OF SO MUCH STRIFE and divisiveness in our society, our courts, particularly the Supreme Court, have never been saddled and burdened than they are today with high-profile and sensitive cases, some of which are of transcendental importance in the life of our nation.

At the lower courts, we can mention the rape case involving four soldiers belonging to the mightiest army of the world; the cases against the so-called Magdalo mutinous officers; libel cases filed by powerful persons against equally powerful persons and the plunder case against former President Estrada.

Before the Supreme Court, there are the petitions challenging the constitutionality of Executive Order No. 464 (decided last April 20), the calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy, and Presidential Proclamation 1017; and most likely the challenge to the people's initiative involving Charter change.

How will the courts, particularly the Supreme Court, resolve the cases? Our people wait with bated breath.

Below are legal gems, culled from the book, "The New Meaning of Justice," sub-titled: "Essays in Judgment, Ethics, and the Law," by Charles E. Wyzanski Jr.:

"[L]aw and the judicial function teach the moral responsibility of man." (Wyzanski, Chapter on Judges and Judgment, P. 5)

"The courts ... are teachers to the citizenry." (P. 84, Ibid)

"[T]he instruction given to the public by the judges is indispensable for the existence of a pervasive spirit of constitutionalism."

Indeed, we can say such instruction nurtures and encourages "the reverence people show and the obedience they give to rules which they regard as obligatory ... such reverence and obedience flow in no small part from an awareness of basic principles concretely illustrated in court decisions and constantly explained in opinions circulating among a wide audience." (Wyzanski)

Wyzanski, by the way, was a former law clerk of Judge Learned Hand. He likewise became a brilliant trial judge and was once described as "one of America's most eloquent legal spokesmen."

—EDMUNDO H. ESCALANTE,
retired judge,
Gubat, Sorsogon

Nothing wrong with Meralco writing GMA

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO THE letter, "Why was the letter addressed to GMA?" (PDI, 4/13/06) of Pete Ilagan. I would like to clarify some of the points he raised in relation to Meralco.

We are puzzled why Ilagan had to criticize Meralco for writing a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo. The letter was meant to tell President Arroyo of Meralco's position with regard to the open access issue—specifically, that the company is amenable to allowing other power producers to supply the electricity requirements of large industrial and commercial customers that consume at least one megawatt a month. We see nothing wrong with writing her about that, especially because the issue involves public interest.

Ilagan's concerns are unfounded. With or without his prodding, Meralco will seek the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission on the matter, since that is what is mandated under the law. In fact, by giving its customers the freedom to choose their own electricity suppliers, Meralco has paved the way for the implementation of open access. This, we believe, will eventually help bring down electricity rates. Ilagan should have realized this.

Ilagan likewise harped on other issues: e.g., the Napocor (National Power Corp.)-Meralco Settlement Agreement, Meralco's "debt" to Napocor and Meralco's sourcing of energy from independent power producers (IPPs). We have repeatedly explained to Ilagan our position on these matters, but unfortunately he refuses to listen and instead continuously peddles his baseless and fallacious arguments and accusations.

We suggest that Ilagan devote more of his time and efforts to more productive initiatives.

—ELPI O. CUNA JR.,
vice president and director,
Corporate Communication,
Meralco, Pasig City

What the Tourism Bill is all about

I WOULD LIKE TO REACT TO two editorial cartoons (PDI, 3/31/06 and 4/12/06) which criticized Senate Bill 2138 (Tourism Bill).

The first cartoon suggested that the Tourism Bill will deter tourists from coming to our country because of an alleged $5 tourism fee. The fact of the matter is that tourism fees of every sort are collected around the world, whether it is New York or Paris or Kuala Lumpur or Hong Kong.

The fee envisioned by the bill will be $5 at most and will go to promotions, development and contingencies. But it can be $2 or $1, or there can even be no fee at all. It will be entirely up to a tourism board, dominated by the private sector, to decide if the fee is needed.

The second cartoon made it appear that the Department of Tourism is taking over the functions of other agencies. The bill simply addresses issues that the private sector itself has asked for, or strengthens what is already there in an informal way. The DOT must work with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to make sure that taxis do not rip off tourists. The DOT works with the Department of Foreign Affairs in order to promote the country in the biggest markets like China and India, and with the Department of Justice to get visas for tourists from these countries.

The DOT already works with the Department of Public Works and Highways in prioritizing infrastructure for tourism destinations, and with the Department of Transportation and Communications and the airports to increase air access and make travel convenient.

What is the Tourism Bill about? (1) It is about having competitive promotions for our country by getting money from Pagcor, Duty Free, the airports and the private sector. Malaysia spends $150 million for tourism, while our DOT has the third lowest budget in government, and currently spends just $8 million. (2) It is about the DOT, LGUs and the private sector working together to uplift the quality of service to world-class standards and protect the tourist by, for instance, ensuring that hotels and resorts have fire exits; or that travel agents, tour operators and guides truly know their culture and history, and act professionally at all times. (3) It is about spurring on investments to develop tourism zones in an environmentally and culturally sustainable manner.

The Tourism Bill is about generating jobs and opportunities while creating incentives to protect our culture and environment. It is about using the tourism engine to take us out of the Third World and into the First. I do not stand to gain from this bill—ultimately, the only real beneficiary of the Tourism Bill will be the Filipino people.

The bill has 93 provisions; focusing on a handful of provisions does injustice to an effort that can contribute to solving the problems of the country. I stand by the bill and will need your help in communicating the ideas of the bill to the general public.

—SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON,
5/F Rm. 509, GSIS Bldg.,
Financial Center,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Silence and inaction

JUSTICE GRINDS EXceedingly slow in the Office of the Ombudsman.

I am one of those who, in 2001, sought the assistance of the Ombudsman to investigate multimillion-peso irregularities in the municipal government of Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

After a lengthy fact-finding investigation, the Ombudsman Evaluation Preliminary and Investigation Bureau dismissed the administrative case against the concerned local government official on the ground that he was reelected in 2004.

However, the Ombudsman resolved in August 2005 to file the criminal aspect of the case against the same official. The following month, the respondent moved for a reconsideration of the resolution. Until now, the Ombudsman has not resolved the motion for reconsideration, in violation of the rule that such motions should be resolved within 10 days from receipt.

In a letter dated Dec. 22, 2005, I sought the assistance of the newly appointed Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez on this matter. The letter did not merit a reply from the Ombudsman. Under RA 6713, such letters must be acknowledged within 15 days from receipt.

If the Ombudsman cannot even acknowledge a letter, how can she fulfill her duty to fight graft and corruption in government?

—FRISCO T. VILLA,
West Poblacion,
Pantabangan,
Nueva Ecija

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Students heckle GMA in Cavite graduation rites

From page A1

A few minutes later, a group of protesters from the left-leaning Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and the Solidarity of Cavite Workers (SCW) also raised red streamers calling on Ms Arroyo to step down.

The protesters were positioned at the row of chairs meant for the parents and relatives of the graduating students.

As the group was escorted out of the school grounds by policemen and PSG members, they continued chanting *"Pahirap sa masa, patalsikin si Gloria*(A burden to the masses, oust Gloria)."

"May karapatan kaming magpahayag ng aming hinaing. Huwag ninyo kaming saktan(We have a right to express our views. Do not hurt us)," said Marlyn Gutierrez, SCW president.

"Huwag kayong mambastos(Do not be crude)," Supt. Roberto Soriano, the operations chief of the Cavite police, retorted.

The group was later brought to the police station.

Frisked on way to stage

The commotion halted the President's speech midway for about a minute.

She gave the hecklers a blank stare, clasped her hands but remained calm. She resumed her speech but this time, her voice had a higher pitch, which betrayed her irritation.

Ms Arroyo was then addressing the graduating class about the importance of mastering the English language in landing better-paying jobs inside the economic zones in Cavite.

She wrapped up her speech without any more incident and stayed on to hand out diplomas to half of the 1,159 graduates, who were frisked by police and PSG on their way to the stage.

"This is really a forgettable event," said one of the graduates.

Tough graduate

Pangilinan was allowed to march to the stage, but at least four police and PSG personnel tried to prevent her from getting her diploma to avoid further incident.

When it was her turn, Pangilinan shook hands with the President but both purposely looked away from each other. On her way down, Pangilinan was heckled by some of the graduates who did not like her actions which they claimed ruined their graduation.

A school official said that there was nothing to prevent Pangilinan from marching on stage because she had completed all the requirements and what she did was only a misdemeanor.

The Inquirer later learned that Pangilinan was the president of the Central Student Government of the university. Students interviewed by the Inquirer said she was also a staff writer of Gazette, the official publication of CvSU.

Another streamer

Halfway through the conferring of diplomas, another student, identified as Apolinario Dayang-dayang, an agriculture engineering graduate, was also arrested as he was about to raise a streamer at around 6 p.m.

At this juncture, the President left the grandstand and boarded the presidential car.

Cavite Gov. Ireneo Maliksi, who had a front row view of the entire incident, said he was embarrassed that the President was heckled.

"She was our guest of honor, we should have treated her properly. I really feel bad for the student for doing that in the graduation ceremony," said Maliksi, who has ordered an immediate investigation of the incident.

At the same time, he complemented Ms Arroyo for remaining unfazed throughout the incident and staying longer than expected (the President was supposed to hand out only a dozen diplomas).

"She showed that she was a true statesman," Maliksi said.

Security breached

PSG and police personnel had reportedly confiscated several red banners during security search hours before the President's arrival.

PSG head Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit refused to comment when asked how the protesters—who pretended to be parents of some of the graduates—breached the security line. The huge open field was cordoned off with only students and their parents and relatives allowed within the main venue.

PNP Gen. Prospero Noble said the security for the event was the sole responsibility of the school and that the police was only there to help keep the peace. "The student's actions reflected badly on her school not us," said Noble.

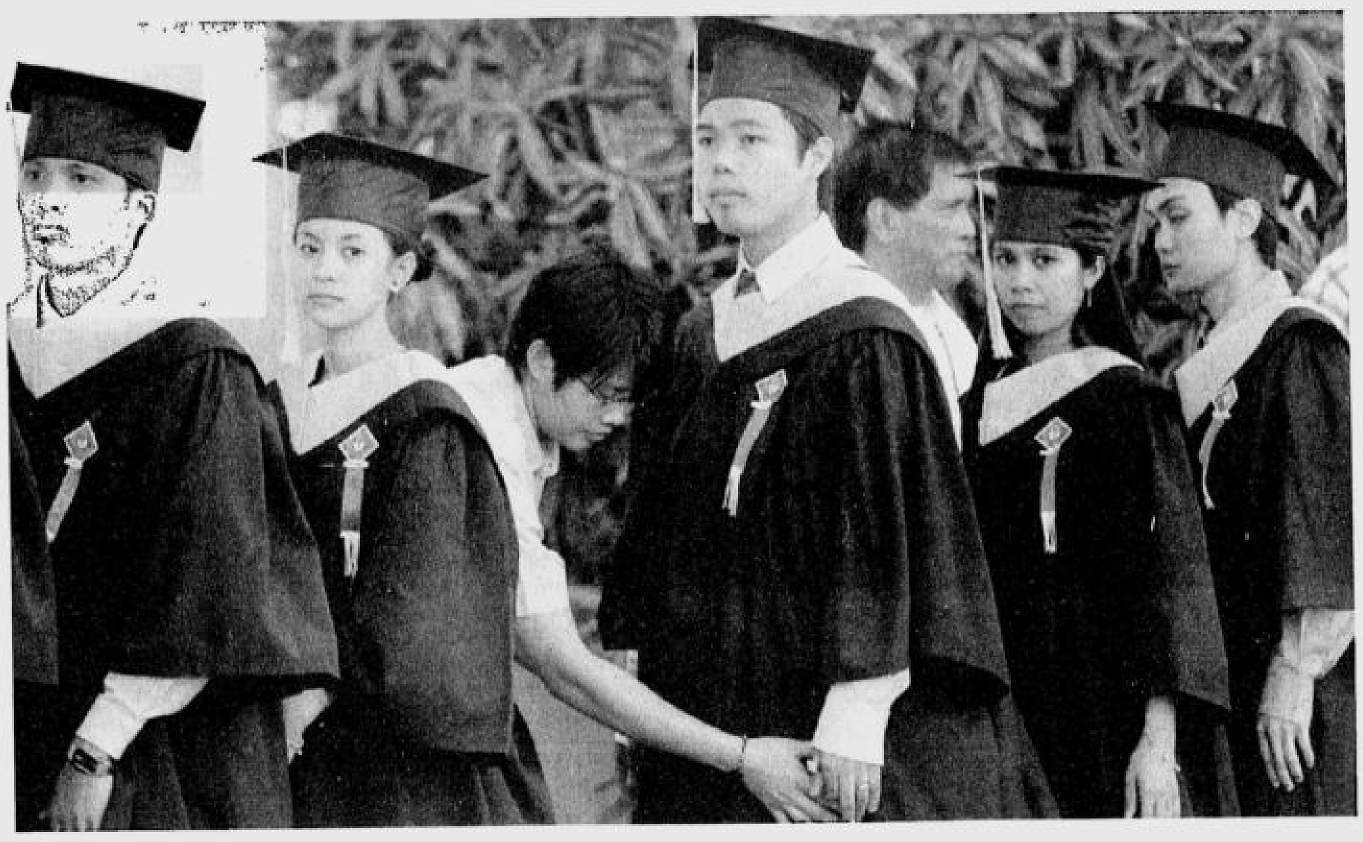
Tit for tat

Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Cavite police director, said the protesters were taken to the Indang police station.

Asked if the arrested persons would be charged, he replied: "We'll see. They are still under investigation."

The incident elicited several reactions from the crowd. "While I agree with what they (the students) were saying, they should have chosen another place and another event. The graduation rites should be solemn," one parent said.

Another said: *"Tama lang yun. Binastos din naman ni GMA ang boto ng mga Pilipino*(What they did was right. GMA also did not respect the vote of the Filipino)."



OUST GMA
NUTG
HACHA

GRADUATES are frisked (top photo) before being allowed to go on stage to get their diplomas after some graduates and guests brought out placards calling for President Arroyo's ouster (lower photo).
LYN RILLON

Lottery racket rivalry . . .

From page A1

Up to 52 Filipinos were picked up for questioning, according to an earlier report from the Jeddah consulate.

With no word as yet on how many of the 52 remained in jail, the DFA yesterday again summoned Saudi Ambassador Mohammed Ameen Mohammed Wali.

The Arab envoy, who met with Undersecretary Rafael Seguis on Thursday, was again called to the DFA late yesterday by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, who had just arrived from Indonesia.

5 more confess

In a press briefing yesterday, Esteban Conejos, the undersecretary for migrant workers affairs, said five more Filipinos have confessed to the killings in addition to the two who confessed earlier.

Filipino consular officials have not been given access to the Filipino detainees who, under Saudi law, can be held incommunicado for up to 60 days.

The Jeddah mission also noted that upon the discovery of the body parts last April 4 and the reported disappearance of several Filipinos, the ensuing police manhunt for the murder suspects extended into a campaign against underground lottery and gambling, drug trafficking and violations of the liquor ban.

"That's why we are now telling the Saudi ambassador that [the investigation] should just focus on the missing persons and the body parts so that it will not look as though there is a crackdown on our OFWs [overseas Filipino workers]," Conejos told reporters in Filipino.

"If you put all those [illegal activities] together, you will certainly have many detainees," he said.

"Our objective now is to effect the release of as many OFWs as possible, and we can only do that by focusing on the murders," he said.

The new confessions "should now pave the way for the immediate release of many of the detainees," Conejos said.

He said information from the Saudi police was coming "in bits and pieces."

This was why the DFA and the consulate cannot report on the motive behind the killing or on the exact statement given by the "confessed" killers to the Saudi police, Conejos said.

The undersecretary added that it has yet to be established whether the recovered body parts were really those of the missing Filipinos.

Only 3 missing

The DFA on Tuesday reported that six Filipinos had disappeared, but clarified on Thursday that there were only three. The other three mistakenly reported as missing were found among the 52 Filipinos arrested by Saudi police.

Investigators have so far pieced together "two bodies" and "an arm," Conejos said, referring to the human parts which were found in black garbage plastic bags in the Sina'alayh district south of Jeddah.

Identification has become more difficult as the body parts were already decomposing but Saudi police are considering using DNA testing, he said.

Free breast exams put fake doctor behind bars

From page A1

One woman became suspicious after the man asked her to remove all her clothes and began conducting a purported genital exam without donning rubber gloves, investigators said.

The woman then phoned the Broward County Sheriff's Office and the suspect fled. He was arrested at another woman's apartment in the same Lauderdale Lakes neighborhood on Wednesday, a sheriff's spokesperson said.

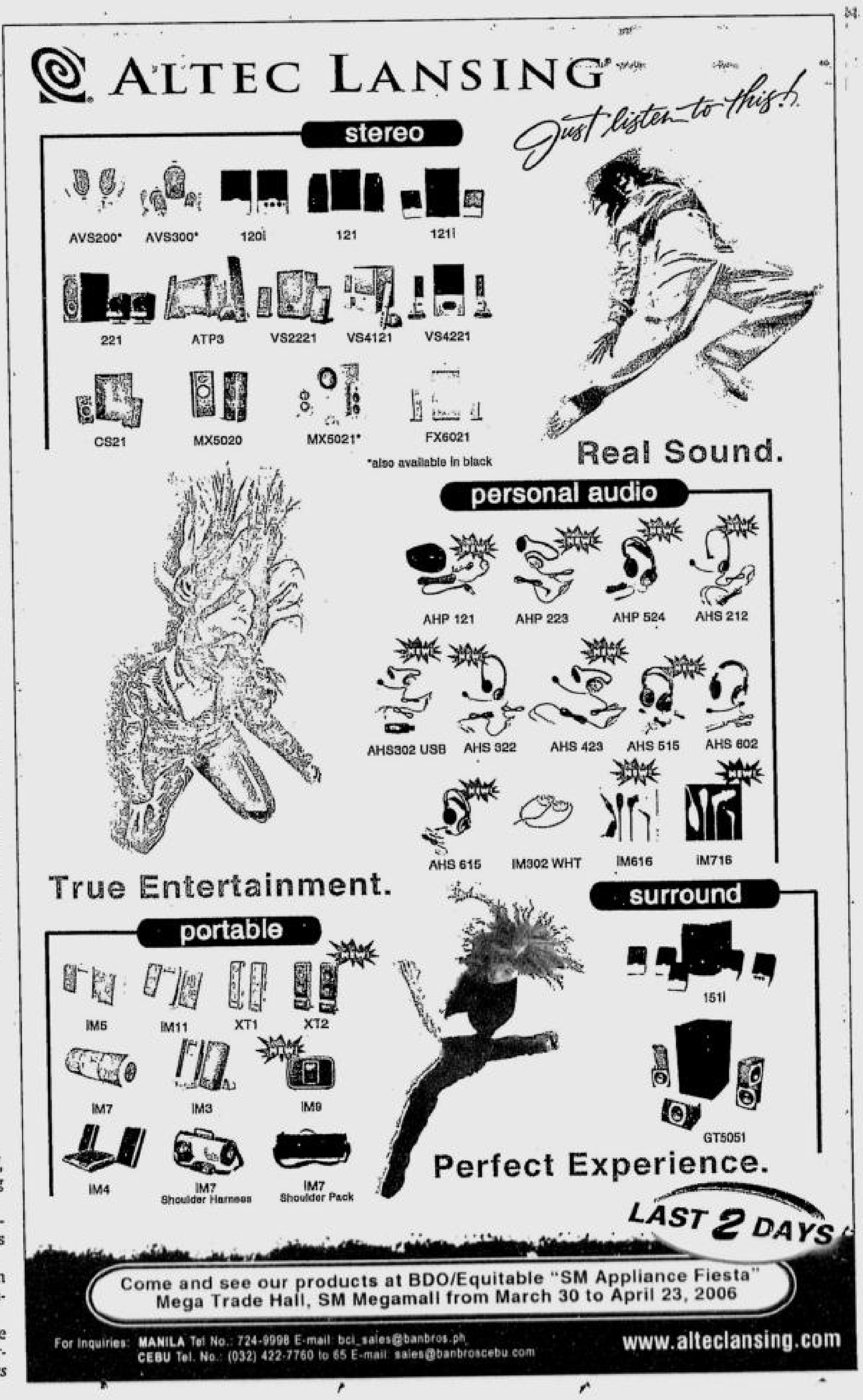
The white-haired suspect, Philip Winikoff, carried a black bag and claimed to be visiting on behalf of a local hospital.

"He told the woman that he was in the neighborhood offering free breast exams," sheriff's spokesperson Hugh Graf said in a statement.

At least two women, both in their 30s, let him into their homes and he fondled and sexually assaulted them, the investigators said.

Winikoff was not a doctor, Graf said. He worked as a shuttle driver for an auto dealership.

Reuters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Semirara spill cost seen to reach billions

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE COST OF THE MASSIVE OIL spill off the coast of Semirara Island could reach billions of pesos, according to a team of scientists from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV).

Quoting preliminary results of a UPV-commissioned comprehensive study on the impact of the oil spill, the team of researchers said the social and environmental impact would range from a low of P22 million to billions of pesos.

"The (P22 million) is a very conservative estimate and this excludes other damages like the cost of irreversible changes to the environment," Dr. Rex Sadaba, project leader and mangrove expert.

The estimate also excludes the cost of the ongoing cleanup operations expected to reach at least P90 million.

The findings were presented in a forum attended by, among others, officials of Antique where Semirara is located, the Coast Guard, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The research team conducted studies on the island on Feb. 6-10 and March 9-13 to determine the impact of the oil spill on mangroves, sea grass and shells.

It also assessed the socio-economic impact of the Dec. 18 oil spill that occurred after a National Power Corp. (Napocor) power barge ran aground off the shores of Semirara Island due to bad weather.

Bankroll

The Napocor earlier said it would shoulder the cost of the cleanup and damage and provide compensation and alternative livelihood to the affected residents.

The 5,045-hectare island is part of a group of nine islands off Caluya town, Antique, at the northern tip of Panay Island.

It is the site of the Semirara Mining Corp., the biggest coal mine in Asia.

An estimated 364,120 liters of bunker fuel spilled near Sitio Bobog, Barangay Semirara, the biggest of the island's three villages. The spill is considered the biggest in the country's history.

Dr. Joy Lizada, who conducted studies on the socio-economic impact, said at least 184 families were affected by the oil spill as it severely affected the livelihood of the residents who mostly rely on fishing, gleaning (shell-gathering) and seaweed farming.

Their studies showed that the average fish catch dropped from 6 kg (low season) to 17.2 kg (peak season) before the oil spill to 3.2 kg from December last year to February, after the oil spill.

"There was no change in their fishing pattern. They went out fishing at an average of four to five hours daily and at five days weekly but their catch was significantly lower," said Lizada.

Other damages

The oil spill also wiped out fishpond production from an average of 460 kg per harvest.

The volume of shells gathered, measured in small plastic containers, also dropped from a range of 9.32 to 11.41 to 2.7 after the oil spill while seaweed harvests for a 28-day cycle dropped to zero from 748.89 kg.

The spill also caused health problems among residents especially those hired for the cleanup operations.

Prof. Mary Ann Naragdao, an epidemiologist who teaches public health at UPV, said stomachache was the dominant symptom found among the 955 respondents of a survey conducted to assess the health impact.

There was an increase of 8.1 percent in reported cases of stomachache among residents of Semirara and Tinugbok. But more cases (7.4 percent) were reported in Barangay Semirara, which was severely affected by the spill.

Residents hired for the cleanup operations also reported more cases of stomachache (28.7 percent) compared to other residents. In most cases, these affected residents were given medicines for common stomach disorders like Loperamide and Diatabs.

Naragdao, however, pointed out that the oil dispersants used in the cleanup operations could also have caused the symptoms especially the workers despite them wearing protective gear like masks, rubber boots and gloves.

The other reported symptoms include dizziness, headache, cough, breathing difficulty, nausea, vomiting, wet stool, skin rashes and skin itchiness.

Economist Rogelio Subade said they were recommending that the residents be provided with adequate compensation to offset the loss of their livelihood.

They also urged the immediate passage of pending bills on marine pollution and the creation of an oil liability fund to prevent or mitigate the damage of oil spills.

Further studies were also needed to monitor and assess the long-term environmental, social and economic impact on the island and the residents, said Subade.

Sadaba said while they had limited funds for the research, their findings were substantial to show the present status of the resources after the spill and the impact on the people.

The research was implemented through a P335,000 funding from the UPV. The Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia also provided a $5,000-grant for the socio-economic aspect of the research.

BORACAY was one of the areas that were projected to feel the effects of the oil spill in Semirara Island. The fears are turning out to be unfounded so far.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

DIVE
Children enjoy the waters of the Iloilo River. The school vacation gives them sufficient time to spend in the river.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

1 dead, 2 missing as boat capsizes in Cebu town

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A CREW MEMBER died while two others, including the skipper, remained missing when their boat capsized on Wednesday night, about 250 meters from the shoreline in Liloan town, Cebu.

The fatality was identified as Benjie Bulala, quartermaster of MT Michael-1, a tanker owned by William Michael Shipping Corp. based in Cebu City.

Still missing were ship captain Rudy Samillano, 60, and radio operator Romeo Sangcap.

Five crew members survived by swimming back to the shore, said Insp. Milo Dagasdas, Liloan police chief.

The vessel came from Iligan City and was bound for a company in Batangas to deliver caustic soda, a chemical ingredient used in the manufacturing of soaps, household bleach and disinfectant, among others.

The crew decided to make a brief stopover in waters off Sitio Suba in Barangay Poblacion, Liloan to bring down the chief engineer who had to be brought to a hospital due to diarrhea, said Bettina Unchuan, director-owner of the shipping company.

But according to Samillano's wife Ruth, the stopover was made because the chief engineer wanted to get off the vessel to go on vacation and his replacement would be waiting in the company's shipyard in Suba.

Since their house was also located in Suba, Ruth said her husband and six other crew members decided to disembark for a short visit.

The crew members used the service boat to take them to shore because the ship was anchored at least 250 meters from the shoreline.

Ruth said Rudy went to her house for a few minutes to discuss what course their youngest daughter would take in college this June.

After the plan was finalized, Rudy left the house. Later, she learned that the service boat capsized.

Farmers pin hope on unfinished irrigation

MASIU, LANAO SUR—FARMERS here have not lost hope that the government would finally be able to finish a communal irrigation project, which was left undone for about 30 years now.

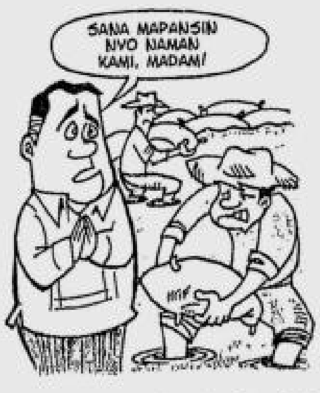
The project was started during the Marcos dictatorship.

Mayor Aminullah Arimao said his people and local officials "never gave up knocking on heaven's door" for the completion of the project.

Arimao said they have continued writing the national government about the fate of the only communal pumped irrigation system in the town, which has already been deteriorating after it was abandoned by the government in the 1970s.

High school days

The project was not tested nor was it accepted complete by the municipal government, recalled Arimao. He said he was still a high school student when it was started.


SANA MAPANSIN NYO NAMAN KAMI, MADAM!

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) said that until 1976, the national government's piecemeal spending on the project summed up to P50 million out of its P76 million budget program at the time.

Arimao said they were wondering where the remaining P26 million went.

Director Johnny Emmanuel, of the NIA office in Northern Mindanao, said he already certified the validity of the residents' claim with NIA officials in Manila.

'Sako' technology

Residents said NIA Assistant Administrator Bong Salazar had inspected the dormant irrigation project that is now temporarily activated by "sako" technology or sandbag piles, roughly keeping water distribution on tract.

Misuari Mikunug, a farmer, said during each barangay assembly, the farming community would troop to the ricefields, pile up sandbags to remedy dilapidated or unfinished sections of the irrigation system's concrete canal through the *bayanihan* system.

The mayor said his people had pinned much hope on President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, had helped institutionalize irrigation both in Congress and in his presidency," he said. *Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Plan to require 3-yr work for nurses called ill-advised, impractical

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE EXODUS OF Filipino nurses has long been bleeding the country's health care system. But would a law requiring new nurses to stay and work here for a while be the tourniquet to stop this hemorrhage?

Health policy experts said the move would not only be a human rights violation but unnecessary as well.

During the national consultation on public-private sector partnership for women's health and safe motherhood here, the exodus of nurses dominated the public forum.

Former Health Undersecretary Mario Taguiwalo said a proposal being pushed by the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines that nurses should work here for three years before going abroad is not advisable.

"No American hospital, for example, would get a fresh nursing graduate," he said, adding that almost all new graduates stay here to gain experience anyway.

"They don't mind the low salaries for the first two years because that is the time they need to meet requirements to migrate," he said.

Taguiwalo said that he, too, has learned that problem in the 1980s when he was a hospital administrator. He said they lost their nursing staff every three years.

"What is important is not to lose the nursing supervisors. You should invest in the goose that lays the golden egg," he said.

He said hospitals training these new nurses should help them in their communication skills instead and make their training globally competitive.

At least one hospital supervisor said that they should not be frustrated with the situation and instead learn from it.

Dr. Alicia Lim, of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRMMC), said the turnover of nurses in their hospital is also very rapid and there are often no applicants for residency training.

Instead of getting frustrated, she said she treated the exodus as a challenge.

"We lose the expertise but that's okay as well," she said. "We should be glad that our nurses are sought abroad."

She said JRMMC now charges nurses for a six-month training program.

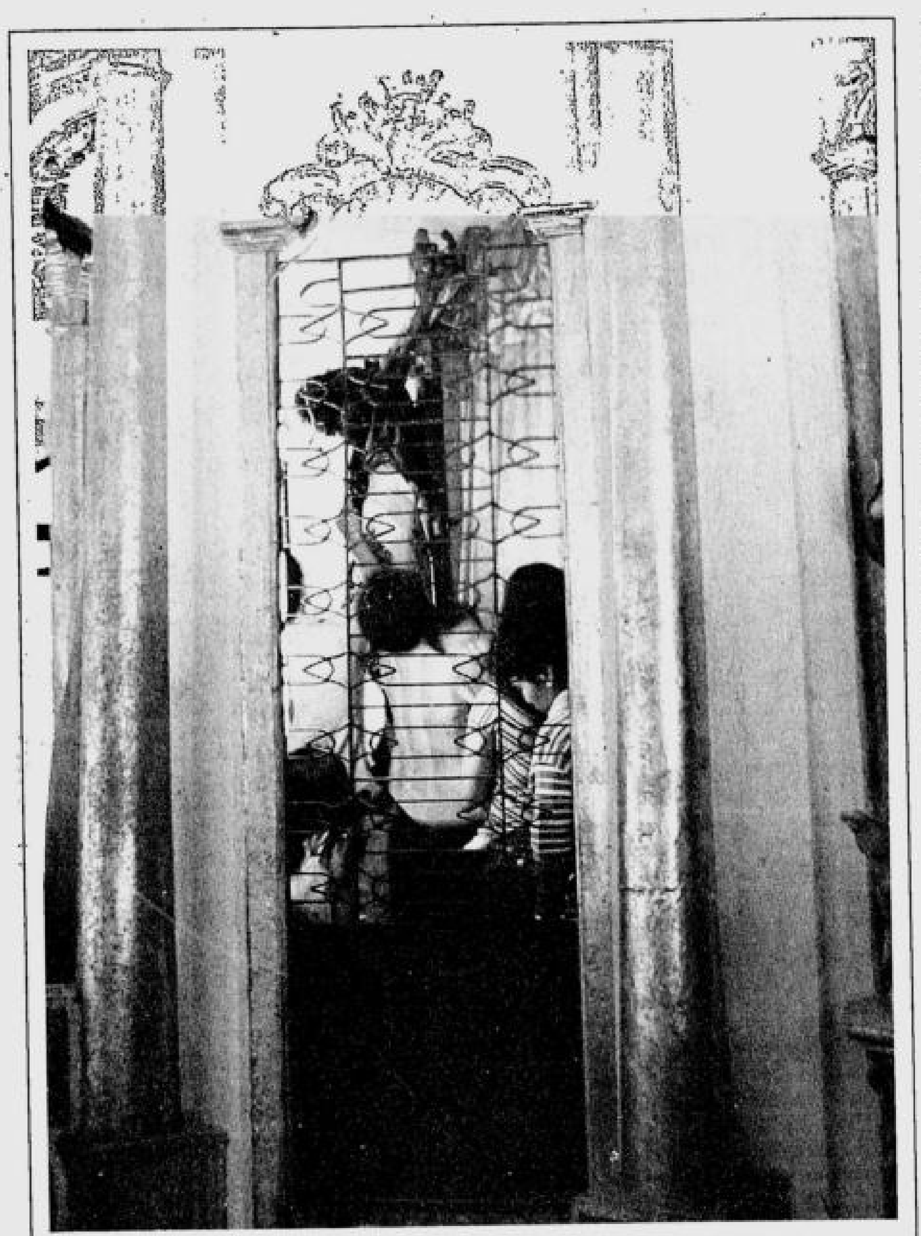
Dr. Antonio Lopez, also a former health undersecretary, said the Philippine Nurses Association has been studying the issue for decades.

He said stopping the exodus would not only mean raising the income of nurses especially in the rural areas but finding ways for them to grow professionally.

He said the demand for nurses showed that Filipinos are globally competitive.

A study by the National Institute of Health of the University of the Philippines showed the Philippines is the biggest exporter of nurses in the world, with more than half of them going to Saudi Arabia, United States and United Kingdom.

EU thanks GMA for move to abolish death penalty



PRAYER LEONCIO BALBIN/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
The faithful flock to a life size image of Apo Santo Milagroso at the St. Nicolas of Tolentino Church in Sinait, Ilocos Sur. Devotees believe the image has miraculous powers.

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—AFTER SPAIN, THE European Union (EU) was next to express its gratitude to President Macapagal-Arroyo for commuting the sentences of all death convicts in the country.

"The European Union warmly welcomes the recent announcements by President Macapagal-Arroyo commuting all death sentences into life imprisonment and certifying as urgent the bill on the abolition of the death penalty," the EU statement read.

The statement by the Austrian Presidency on behalf of the EU was released Thursday by Ambassador to the Philippines Herbert Jager of Austria during a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing counter terrorism experts' conference (CTEC) at Shangri-la Hotel Resort and Hotel on Mactan Island.

The EU also supported Ms Arroyo's appeal to Congress to abolish the 12-year-old Republic Act No. 7659 that restored the death penalty.

"EU is a strong advocate of the abolition of the death penalty, as it is of the opinion that capital punishment is incompatible with human dignity and is no effective deterrent to crime," the statement said.

Timor-Leste Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Jose Ramos-Horta lauded Ms Arroyo for her courage and compassion for rendering such a decision.

Ramos-Horta, in his speech during one of the sessions in the conference, said he understood the sentiments of the victims' relatives because he, too, had lost family members to cruel and premeditated violence.

"Yet, neither I nor my compatriots would argue that we should take the lives of those who have done harm to us and our beloved ones," he said.

"Sometimes the death penalty is the easiest way out for an unrepentant convicted criminal as he does not have any values to live for while allowing him to live is the best punishment as every hour or day in prison is a reminder of his horrible crimes," he added.

Ramos-Horta said he hoped that this magnanimous gesture of the President would be understood by Filipinos and would eventually lead to the formal abolition of the death penalty law.

Ms Arroyo's decision was criticized as a gesture to appease Catholic bishops whose support the President was courting in the wake of continued attempts to unseat her.

The bishops' support is seen crucial in keeping Ms Arroyo's hold on power.

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ROUNDUP

Soldiers get cash rewards

MAASIN CITY—The provincial government of Southern Leyte has, for the first time, given out cash rewards to soldiers who died or were wounded in clashes with communist rebels in the province. The P10,000 in cash were each given to the families of Lt. Ismael Manicsic, who was killed in last month's encounter in the jungles of Hilongos, Leyte, and Lt. Reden Ochea, who was wounded in the same battle. The two were the first Army casualty and wounded soldier of the 43rd Infantry Battalion based in the province. Gov. Rosette Lerias personally gave the amount to the families of Manicsic and Ochea last week. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

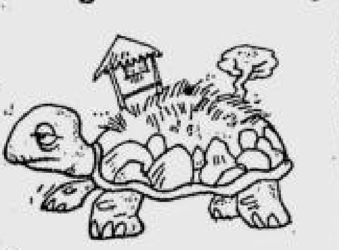
Outing turns into tragedy

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A family outing on Easter Sunday turned into tragedy after three people died while 13 others were seriously injured when the jeep they were riding fell into a ravine along a national road in Tanauan City. Supt. Manuel Abu, Tanauan police chief, identified the fatalities as Jane Pon-an, Lorily Pagunsan and Jerome Dobla, all of Quezon City. Abu said the three died from severe head and body injuries while being rushed to the CP Reyes General Hospital. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Rebels kill policeman

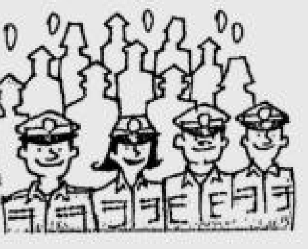
CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Communist guerrillas shot dead a policeman in an attack in Pasacao, Camarines Sur on April 18. The policeman, identified only as SPO3 Aquino, suffered gunshot wounds in different parts of the body. Army Maj. Jose Broso, Southern Luzon Command spokesperson, said soldiers were sent to track down the guerrillas who attacked Aquino. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Slow growth in Albay



LEGAZPI CITY—Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez admitted his program for the development of the countryside in the province is moving slow and has achieved only 30 percent of its target. The program includes the expansion of road networks and building of new infrastructure. Gonzalez expressed confidence that before his first term ends next year, he would be able to accomplish at least 50 percent of the program's target. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

200 new cops expected



LEGAZPI CITY—At least 200 police trainees are expected to be admitted to the regular police force in the Bicol region after they complete their six-month training in the Regional Training Center at Camp General Simeon Ola here. According to Senior Supt. Eleazer Bron, regional police information officer, the new batch of police applicants would help the region achieve a 1:1000 police-to-population ratio. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Co-op to hold elections

LEGAZPI CITY—Members of the Albay Electric Cooperative Inc. (Aleco) here welcomed the holding of elections for the new board of directors to save the ailing electric cooperative. Acting Aleco project supervisor Jose Misael Moraleda said on Tuesday that, with the help of the Aleco Multi-Sectoral Council headed by Gov. Fernando Gonzalez, the Aleco management scheduled the Aleco board elections on May 6. The cooperative's board was deactivated when the National Electrification Administration took over management several years ago. Also expected to help is the National Power Corp., which was requested by President Macapagal-Arroyo to submit a rehabilitation plan for Aleco. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bar owner shot dead

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A bar owner was shot dead inside his videoke bar in San Pedro, Laguna on Tuesday night, police said. Supt. Sergio Dimandal, San Pedro police chief, said victim Romy Velasco, 33, of South Fairway Subdivision, Barangay Landayan, San Pedro town, was inside the Rap-rap Videoke Bar on Hernandez Street in Barangay Landayan when four unidentified men arrived at the area at about 7:30 p.m. He said the group of men, who were apparently drunk, asked for the whereabouts of a certain Macky, said to be a cousin of Velasco. A confrontation between the victim and the suspects ensued. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 held for bus terminal blast

DIGOS CITY—TWO SUSPECTS IN THE MARCH 29 bus explosion that wounded at least 17 people here were arrested by authorities in Davao City, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said.

The CIDG said the two suspects—Golao Bawa and Ahadi Alian—also yielded bomb-making paraphernalia when arrested in Barangay Ilang in Tibungco, Davao City on Saturday last week.

In a report obtained by the INQUIRER, the CIDG said the bomb materials used in the Weena Bus explosion were similar to the ones seized from the suspects.

The bus was on its way to Davao City from Cotabato City and had just arrived at the terminal here with 21 passengers on board when the bomb exploded.

Bomb experts from the police and the military have found traces of ammonium nitrate in the blast site, according to Senior Supt. Binang Hadjiril, Davao del Sur police chief.

Authorities said the attack could be the work of the New People's Army (NPA) but a rebel spokesperson denied the guerrillas had a hand in it.

Later, a group calling itself the Urban Tigers Armed Group (UTAG), claimed responsibility for the bombing. *Eldie Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Name of the Project : Lease of a portion of the 2nd floor of the Administration & Finance (A&F) Bldg., CCP Complex

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Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting **April 21, 2006** from **3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **April 28, 2006; 3:00 p.m., 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP (Main Bldg.)**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **May 12, 2006, 2:00 pm**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **May 12, 2006, 2:00 pm** at the CCP Board Room, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives.

The award of the project shall be based on the highest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3607
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **NIEVES T. DULDULAO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI-April 22 & 23, 2006)

PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, 107 Paseo de Roxas St., 1226 City of Makati
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INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

The **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA)**, after two (2) failed biddings, is inviting interested parties to submit proposals for the negotiated sale and/or lease of the following properties on a serviced land basis (major roads and tapping points for utilities are available), located at the Central Business Park 1 A, Bay City (formerly known as Boulevard 2000), Pasay City, for mixed use or commercial development purposes.

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A2	1	corner	3,462	SALE
A2	2	interior	2,568	SALE
A2	3	interior	2,611	SALE
A2	4	interior	2,573	SALE
A2	5	corner	3,321	SALE
A3	1	corner	2,500	SALE
A3	2	interior	2,222	SALE
B4		portion	5,825	SALE OR LEASE
B7		portion	4,648	SALE OR LEASE
B5		portion	18,348	SALE OR LEASE

[1] Subject to final survey

1. Sealed and properly labeled Prequalification and Proposal Envelopes may be submitted starting **27 April until 26 May 2006** and must be addressed to:

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PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
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      2) Government corporations (including LGU)/government financial institutions: certified true copy of the charter creating the corporation or other incorporation papers from the SEC and other documents to prove that it is a government owned or controlled corporation (for sale and lease).
      3) Partnership/corporation/association: DTI/SEC registration and certification that the partnership/corporation/association is at least 60% owned by citizens of the Philippines and organized and registered under Philippine Laws. (for lease only).
      4) 2005 income tax returns or 2005 certificate of compensation payment/tax withheld in cases of employees, 2005 business tax returns and tax clearance dated May 2006 issued by the BIR must be submitted to prove the full and timely payment of taxes, per Executive Order No. 398 (for sale and lease).
   b. **Proposal envelope/s** for each property, sealed and properly labeled as to the block/lot number of the property and the proposed mode of acquisition (i.e., cash sale, lease) and must include the corresponding **tender deposit/s** in the form of a cashier's or manager's check payable to **PEA** and drawn from any universal bank. •Sale offer: at least 10% of total offer •Lease offer: equivalent to at least three (3) months lease for the property. Interested parties may submit proposals for several properties.
2. After evaluation and ranking of offers, only the offerors of the highest and best bid clusters shall be invited for negotiation.
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4. Material misrepresentation and/or breach of warranty made in the Prequalification Documents and Proposal shall cause the forfeiture of the tender deposit in favor of the PRA. The forfeiture of the Tender Deposit shall not bar the PRA from pursuing all other remedies available under the TOR and applicable laws.
5. PRA reserves the right to reject any proposal or waive any defects or formality, impose additional terms and conditions and accept the proposal most advantageous to the Government.
6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address and at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7104 (direct line).

(Sgd.) **SILVESTRE H. BELLO III**
General Manager/CEO

(PDI–April 12, 24 & 26, 2006)

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

INQUIRER *Visayas*

The forgotten San Vidal

By Gavin Sanson Bagares
Contributor

EASTER SUNDAY WAS A very busy DAY AT THE CEBU Metropolitan Cathedral in Cebu City. At the close of the 3 p.m. Mass, the celebrant [illegible] the crowd's attention to the left-side altar and told them [illegible] the unfamiliar new icon enshrined there, whose feast day is imminent.

San Vidal was the true and original patron of the cathedral, he said, and not the Inmaculada Concepcion at the altar to the right. The Immaculate Conception, he explained, was the "personal [illegible]" of the late Archbishop of Cebu [illegible] Cardinal Rosales; San Vidal [illegible] the cathedral parishioners. Unknown to church officials, San Vidal's importance goes beyond mere patronage of a local church, even one as historic and prominent as the Cebu Cathedral.

At dawn of the present millennium, the question arose on who should be Cebu's patron saint. A controversy quickly followed, pitting the devotees of the Holy Child Jesus, or the Santo Niño de Cebu, against the Marian venerators of the Virgin of Guadalupe. For a time, it fed a media debate that seemed to know no resolve.

Thus, when the debate made its rounds on the streets, radio and television, and in print, and hit fever pitch in July 2002, the archbishop of Cebu, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, issued a statement declaring the Virgin of Guadalupe the "Patron of Cebu" and not the Santo Niño.

This drew angry protests from many Cebuanos who are used to the image's style as Cebu's patron. A prominent priest from the San Agustin Church defended Vidal's decision in media: "The Santo Niño cannot be called the patron of Cebu because He is Jesus Himself. We pray directly to Jesus as the Santo Niño."

But not long after, the issue died down, and the Virgin of Guadalupe took her place as the patroness. In August last year, when the city was under threat of dengue disease, the archbishop reportedly called on parish priests to recite a novena to the Virgin and petition her to ward off an epidemic. There was no news of outrage.

THE NEW image of San Vidal
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Recently identified

In all the time, the public and the media argued on whose divine patronage should Cebu be under, the name San Vidal was never brought up. To many, he does not exist in the pantheon of Cebu's sacred icons. It was only a few years back that a pious churchgoer identified his image in one of the side altars of the cathedral and labeled it with his name.

Not until last year's renovation was there a move to rehabilitate San Vidal to his current visibility at the southern see.

Who then was San Vidal?

San Vidal's life, in fact, cannot be verified beyond the realm of legend. He was said to have come from a family of saints (his wife and sons were all martyrs of Christendom) during the reign of Emperor Nero. His glory was death after having been tortured and finally buried alive for his faith.

Miguel Lopez de Legazpi began to colonize the Philippines for Spain at the port of Cebu on April 29, 1565. This day was (and still is) marked on the ecclesiastical calendars as the day of Saint Vitalis (Saint Vitalian, or San Vidal in Spanish).

St. Vitalian

Pedro Chirino, the Jesuit missionary writing contemporaneously of 1600 "Sebu," observed that "the twenty-ninth of April, the feast of the glorious martyr St. Vitalian, who is the city's patron saint ... is honored on that day with a solemn celebration."

San Vidal then was no common saint: he was entitled to a major commemoration.

Chirino describes the scene of this celebration:

"The Banner of the City is brought out by one of the Aldermen, appointed each year for this charge, who in full regalia presides at the public festival. There are bullfights and other festivities and public entertainments, in addition to all kinds of fireworks and pyrotechnic displays put on the night before by the Chinese, who in this art can contrive effects truly spectacular and seemingly beyond the natural."

On the 326th anniversary of this feast, the celebration ran for three days, writes scholar Resil Mojares:

"The fiesta featured *'dianas'* (dawn serenades), holy Masses, a civic-religious procession, horse races (organized by the Sociedad Recreativa de Cebu headed by Francisco Llorente), a contest of musical bands at Plaza Maria Cristina (now Independencia), and a public dance at Plaza General Loño (Plaza Rizal)."

There were also private banquets in the homes or offices of the aristocracy.

Banner bearers

The complexion of this feast changed little throughout the Spanish rule, except for those tasked with bearing the banner of the city. Up until 1755, the banner was borne by the Spanish aldermen of the Ayuntamiento.

But when Cebu lost its status as a city that year, jurisdiction fell on the shoulders of the Spanish and non-Spanish residents of the newly formed Pueblo de Ciudad. A change of hands again happened in 1849 with the commencement of the *gremio* or tax ward system with the Gremio de Naturales in charge.

This ward, despite the *indio* connotation, had Spanish and Spanish mestizos enrolled in it. By the time Cebu became once again a city in 1890, the Ayuntamiento had become multi-ethnic, with socially prominent Chinese mestizos included, and the standard-bearers or *abanderados* of the banner (drawn from the rank of Royal Ensign, the Alferez Real) a racially diverse lot.

The feast of the Santo Niño in 1888 fell on Jan. 18. The Augustinian friars that year "decided that the fiesta of the Santo Niño, should be very festive to encourage visitors from other provinces to attend," writes historian Felix Sales in his account of the incident (summa-

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Defining moments for 2 Negrense women

By Chito A. Fuentes
Dauin, Negros Oriental

> *"Nothing shapes your life than the commitments you choose to make. They can develop you or destroy you, but either way they will define you."*
>
> –Rick Warren

ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT BOTH OF THEM live in Dauin, Negros Oriental, Alicia Tenido and Virginia Alido don't share much in common.

Tenido, 48, is a couple peer educator (CPE), while Alido, 34, is a Bantay Dagat *tanod* (sea guard).

While Tenido routinely performs the task of a CPE in a largely women's domain, Alido is the only female in the eight-member Bantay Dagat team of Poblacion District 1 Dauin United Fishermen's Association (Poddufa).

Tenido deals primarily with housewives in humble homes within her *purok* (sub-village) in Bulac, while Alido scans the seawaters in the nine-hectare marine sanctuary in Sitio Lupa, Poblacion I with male counterparts.

"Most of the time we talk to the wives first because men are more difficult to convince," Tenido said in Cebuano when asked about her strategy in winning converts to population management concepts.

Alido, who is accredited by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (Padi), said female divers visiting the Lupa marine reserve would often request her services.

Common passion

Divergent as their tasks may seem, both women are brought together by a common passion for advocacy that integrates population, health and environment (PHE) espoused by Path Foundation Philippines, a nonstock, nonprofit organization.

Both were interviewed along with other community volunteers working closely with Path Foundation during an on-site visit conducted by media persons and information officers as part of a training workshop on the PHE approach organized by the NGO in Dumaguete City on March 22-23.

ALIDO

TENIDO

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY PATH FOUNDATION

A barangay health worker since 1984, Tenido was introduced to population management advocacy through seminars where she realized the urgency of family planning, especially among the poor.

With five children to feed, largely from the earnings of her husband who alternates between farming and fishing, Tenido speaks from experience when she interacts with women in the *purok*.

"It is difficult to rear many children," she explained. It is difficult to imagine anyone among the poor housewives she visits regularly who would argue with her on that.

A fisherman's daughter, Alido grew up to the sights of fishing boats docking on the shores of Lupa, the site of the marine reserve.

After completing seminars on coastal resource management, she realized that unless the village acted fast, time would come when fish on which most of the villagers subsisted would disappear forever.

Things turned for the better in 1996 when the village declared the waters off Lupa a protected area. Instead of serving as a docking area where fishermen unload their trash and gasoline waste, the marine reserve has become a favorite dive spot—a source of livelihood for the Poddufa members and their families.

Alido credits Dauin Mayor Rodrigo Alanano for the turnaround.

"Since the assumption of Mayor Alanano, no one docks here anymore," she said.

That means no more trash and gasoline spills in the sea and the rows of stores along the shore. In its place is a well-guarded sanctuary where corals abound and a vigilant citizenry keeps watch 24 hours a day.

"When we see a boat that is stationary, we immediately send out the *tanod* to order them to move on," Alido said.

On a good month, the village earns as much as P50,000 from fees collected from divers who marvel at the corals and other marine life in the sanctuary. Out of this income, 40 percent goes to the Poddufa, 40 percent to the municipal government, and the remainder to the barangay.

Tenido receives a P300 monthly honorarium for her efforts, while Alido is entitled to a P250 monthly honorarium, aside from earnings derived from the barangay's 20 percent share in the divers' fees.

Fulfillment

Like most advocates, both prefer to talk about the fulfillment they get from doing something for the village than the monetary considerations. For the moment, both appear contented with the modest progress that their advocacies are enjoying.

Both, however, admit that managing the population is a crucial factor that will determine the survival of future generations in their respective villages.

"It will be more difficult if there are more people," Tenido said without hesitation.

With more people fishing just outside the protected area, the catch will diminish, Alido said.

Both not only realize the immensity of the problem posed by the population growth but also the crucial role that they play as stakeholders working for NGOs such as Path.

In all probability, they have not heard of Rick Warren, but like what he said, the lives of these two women and others like them are being shaped by the commitments they have chosen to make in their areas of responsibilities.

The forgotten San Vidal

From page A18

rized here from the annotated translation by Fe Susan Go).

The priests wanted the Pendon de Castilla (Banner of Castile) to be paraded in the grand procession. This *pendon* was, in fact, one and the same as the Banner of the City or flag of San Vidal seen by one generation to the next on his feast day.

Thus, a request was made to the office of the Intendencia General, headed at this time by Don Francisco Posuelo, aide-de-camp of the absentee Don Adolfo Arderios. The request was granted and the office of the Intendencia then ordered the *gobernadorcillo* or *capitan* (now mayor) of the Gremio de Naturales to include the banner in the procession of the Santo Niño.

The order, however, was met with resistance by the *principales* (officially, the leading citizens) of this *gremio*, especially by the *teniente accidental* (vice mayor), Don Escolastico Duterte. Due to the illness of the incumbent *capitan*, it fell on Don Escolastico to decide whether or not to heed the order.

Legal opinion

The consensus was a negative, "since the banner was not intended for the Santo Niño" and "the purpose of the friars did not conform with, but rather overstepped, the jurisdiction of Church rights."

THE CEBU Metropolitan Cathedral circa 1890 CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Don Escolastico then sought the legal opinion of lawyer Don Segundo Singson, who, in turn, fired a letter expressing the desire and espousing the rights of the *gremio* (as legal guardian of the banner so decreed by the "highest authority on the islands") to defy the order.

Duterte delivered the protest letter of the Gremio de Naturales personally to Posuelo who after reading it, and soon after Duterte left, commanded the Guardia Civil to order Duterte and the other *principales* to appear before him and explain their action.

Duterte stood his ground in spite of threats of excommunication by the Augustinians. But in the end, he was forcibly resigned from his post as the *teniente accidental* and was replaced by the friar-fearing *teniente primero*, Don Rufo Salomea, from whom a renewed request for the *pendon* was made.

This time around, it was granted—but not too easily. Salomea's order to have the flag of San Vidal paraded in the Santo Niño festival was not carried out by the *alguacil de varas* (constable) and his men.

Ultimately, the friars of St. Augustine had their way. Posuelo heeded the frays' desire and sent a squad of Guardia Civil, accompanied by Salomea, to remove the Banner of the City from the Tribunal of the Gremio de Naturales. The *abanderados* were enjoined to parade it in the procession of the Santo Niño. So it came to pass.

Forgotten

After Spain left Cebu's shores in December 1898, evacuating with her lost empire the Spanish community, Cebu had a postcolonial nostalgia for its former Mother Country.

The Casino Español was organized only within the second decade of the 20th century. It helped form a small clique of Spanish and Spanish mestizos with almost the same prestige as in the days of the Ayuntamiento of the 1890s to lead in the city's social life.

These Hispanics (as they are best described) were mostly recent migrants from other provinces in the archipelago, or newcomers from Spain itself who were escaping the country's increasingly repressive rule that led to a civil war.

The New Hispanics were ignorant of the role of San Vidal in the conquest of the Philippines, a role long upheld (and fought for) in pomp and ceremony in the over 300 years of Spanish rule. Instead, the supposed natural heirs to the devotion of San Vidal chose to venerate the Lady of the Pillar, patroness of Spain itself.

San Vidal during the American period was an increasingly shadowy figure (although his catafalque was said to have dominated the *altar mayor*), diminished in status from "patron saint of the city" to "titular patron" confined to the cathedral—a relic whose significance is dusted off only on his feast day and vaguely remembered by the very few who care.

Indeed, saints, like old soldiers, never die; they just fade away.

PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS & LOAN ASSN., INC.
(Authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

NOTICE TO ALL PNSLAI MEMBERS

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSN., INC. WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006 AT THE SEABEES SOCIAL HALL, BNS, FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY. REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 A.M.

ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.

COMMO DANTE Z RUIZ AFP (RET)
President

(PDI – April 22 & 23, 2006)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement, MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested and qualified bidders to undertake the following:

Description	Date of Bidding	Participating Fee
Supply of Labor, Materials, Expertise and Technical Know How for the Repair of Aircon System of MWSI Offices.	May 5, 2006	P 1,000.00
Supply of Labor, Materials, Expertise and Technical Know How for the maintenance of Lighting and Power System of MWSI Offices.	May 4, 2006	P 1,000.00

Bid Forms are now available and can be secured at Purchasing Department, Basement, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City upon payment of the non-refundable participation fee.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposal, waive any formality or defect therein and will accept only the bid which is most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **LUIS Z. LERMA**
Manager , Purchasing Dept.

(PDI - April 22 & 23, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Proposed Construction of Women's Development Center
Location : BSP Camp – Cebu City Zoo Park, Brgy. Kalunasan, Cebu City
Brief Description : Building Construction, Slope Protection & Landscaping
Approved Budget For the Contract : P6,901,917.67
Contract Duration : 180 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	April 22-28, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	April 22-28, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	April 28, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	May 4, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	May 5, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	May 10, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	May 22, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 416-5400 local 110.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI–April 22 & 28, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publications, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Purita Buris Ricardo Arevalo, Jr. Ma. Esby Linda Arevalo	T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Mla.	Ricardo Arevalo SS#03-2733063-1	October 18, 2005
2)	Rolando A. Arsaga	165 Panay St., Timog CAA, Las Pinas	Remedios R. Arsaga SS#03-8170490-2	June 18, 2004
3)	Charito Legaspi Alisor	General Santos City	Roberto C. Alizor SS#09 0603895-6	December 7, 2005
4)	Rosemarie Balicag	Unknown	Martin W. Balicag SS#01-0578139-2	January 16, 2004
5)	Evelyn Roberto Gumban	Pasay City	Albino T. Cunola, Sr. SS#03-2712499-8	August 14, 2003
6)	Susan Lopez Rosita Jalulan	Unknown	Jose O. Hababag SS#03-1975061-7	January 21, 2006
7)	Yolanda Palermo	Tulay, Casiguran, Sorsogon	Nelson Hamor SS#03-1336281-7	December 9, 2004
8)	Rolando S. Nolasco	19 San Agustin, San Bartolome, Novaliches Quezon City	Jasmin J. Nolasco SS#03-2932831-1	November 14, 2005
9)	Pascual Villamor	Unknown	Mercedes C. Obejas SS#03-5003312-1	July 22, 2005
10)	Trinidad Sabado Paca	Manila	Wilfredo V. Paca SS#08 0250527-7	January 26, 2006
11)	Joseph Ronald	49061 & P Comp Bunao, Dumaguete City	Jacobo Remigio SS#03-3052043-8	August 27, 2005
12)	Rodolfo Sunio	Unknown	Mateo Sunio SS#03 0114006-7	August 5, 2004
13)	Violeta Rogaro	Bnsud, Sorsogon, Sorsogon	Ricardo C. Uy SS#05-0459744-6	November 18, 2005

- Nothing follows -

(PDI - April 22, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Project : Proposed Repair/Improvement of Old CPDRC Building
Location : M.J. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City
Brief Description : Repair and Improvement works
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 5,276,489.30
Contract Duration : 150 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

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(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI – April 22, 2006)

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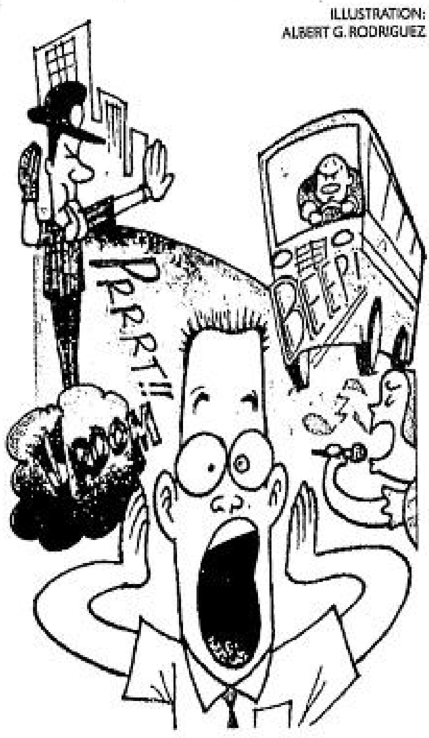
PRRRT!!
BEEP!
VROOM

Noise in the Metro

Edsa-Taft tops high decibel area listing

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR EARS, STAY away from the following areas during a particular time of the day: Edsa-Taft Avenue in Pasay in the morning, Ayala Avenue in Makati during noontime and Pedro Gil-Taft Avenue in Manila in the afternoon.

These areas were discovered to be the noisiest among the busiest places in Metro Manila, according to a study conducted by the University of Santo Tomas' Center for Audiological Sciences.

The other areas included in the study were Shaw Boulevard (Mandaluyong), Farmers-Cubao and GMA-Kamuning, (Quezon City). A team led by Dr. Norberto Martinez, the center's director and president of Better Hearing Philippines Foundation, conducted the study during a seven-day period. The team used a sound-level meter to measure the noise level in the six areas during the following hours: 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., 10 a.m. to noon and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The results of the study showed that in the morning, Edsa Taft was the noisiest area, at 105.5 decibels, followed by GMA- Kamuning, 102.9 decibels; Shaw Boulevard, 101.1 decibels; Farmers, 99.8 decibels; Ayala Avenue, 97.9 decibels; and Pedro Gil, 97.2 decibels.

At noon, the noisiest area was Ayala at 102.2 decibels, followed by Farmers, 102.1 decibels; GMA-Kamuning, 101.6 decibels; Shaw Boulevard, 101.5 decibels; Pedro Gil, 100.8 decibels and Edsa-Taft, 99.5 decibels.

In the afternoon, Pedro Gil emerged the noisiest at 103.2 decibels, followed by Shaw, 101.9 decibels; Farmers, 101.9 decibels ; Edsa-Taft, 101.6 decibels; Ayala, 101.3 decibels and GMA-Kamuning, 101.7 decibels.

The study said that at most, people can only be exposed to 90 decibels for eight hours daily, based on the Permissible Noise Exposure Level for Occupational Health and Safety Standards of the Department of Labor. "Beyond this, one could have a temporary or permanent hearing disability," said Martinez .

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Robbery eyed as motive in killing of designer, pal /A22
- English without tears at expo /A22

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Robbery angle eyed in killing of designer, pal

By DJ Yap

POLICE HAVE LAUNCHED A MANHUNT for the suspects in the brutal killing of fashion designer Melchor Vergel de Dios and a yet unidentified companion whose bodies were found in an abandoned car the other day.

The police have identified one of the suspects, with robbery being eyed as the primary motive, said Supt. Procopio Lipana, criminal investigation division chief of the Quezon City police.

But Lipana declined to name the suspect. He added that they were looking for other suspects, one of whom "knew the victim ."

Another police officer said they were also looking into the possible involvement of a watchman at De Dios' home and office at 21 Congressional Ave., Barangay Bahay Toro in Quezon City.

The watchman, who did not write in his logbook the time De Dios entered the building, has not reported for work since the incident, he added.

A mop which had traces of blood was found in the building's parking area, prompting investigators to believe that the suspects had accosted and killed the victims there before driving them to the Commonwealth area and escaping.

The suspects apparently managed to get only a few valuables, including the stereo player in De Dios' car, since the designer did not carry a lot of cash and preferred to use credit cards, investigators said.

The two victims were discovered at about 6:20 a.m. Thursday at the back of De Dios' Ford Lynx that had been parked nearthe Ever Gotesco Mall on Commonwealth Avenue for several hours.

Gruesome death

De Dios, a first cousin of Metro Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center executive director Angelito Vergel de Dios, was found with a white plastic bag wrapped around his head and a cord around his neck. The other victim's hands and feet were bound by a leather-like material.

De Dios was lying on his belly at the back seat and had several wounds on the head and bruises all over the body. His companion, who also sustained several bruises, was found slumped on the floor.

BUBBLY FUN

A child amuses herself by blowing bubbles.

ERIK ARAZAS

METROBRIEFS

Twist in Razon case

IN a bizarre twist, the woman companion of Denver Razon during the car accident that killed him now stands accused of being responsible for his death. Marian Bustillos, 23, who was driving the Honda City that crashed into an electric post, leaving her hospitalized and Razon dead on March 15, was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide yesterday. In a complaint in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Razon's father, former balladeer and Mandaluyong City councilor Darius Razon, pointed to Bustillos as the one responsible for the accident that led to his son's death. Based on his own investigation of the case, the elder Razon accused Bustillos of being the one who tried to overtake the 10-wheeler truck driven by Eunize Siazon, rather than the other way around, as Bustillo had claimed. He said the truck showed no sign of any recent damage, belying Bustillos' statement that the truck hit the car on G. Araneta Avenue, causing it to bounce off a steel gate and crash onto the post. The sworn statement of Siazon, who has also been charged with reckless imprudence charge, was attached to Razon's complaint. *DJ Yap*

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Keep away from the bay

THE MANILA CITY government has urged the public not to swim in Manila Bay to prevent contracting skin diseases and other illnesses which could prove fatal. Mayor Lito Atienza said there is a high concentration of pollutants in the bay which are not good for the health. "We discourage swimming in Manila Bay. There are so many diseases that could be acquired in doing this," he said. "They could get boils, fungus and other skin infection. And if they swallow the water, they could develop diarrhea," Atienza said. City health officials also warned the public against leptospirosis, a potentially fatal disease acquired from exposure to water contaminated by rat urine. Atienza said he has already directed the city engineering office to put up signs urging the public not to swim in the bay. The city's policemen have also been ordered to apprehend anybody caught swimming in the area. Violators, however, would not be jailed but would be given a lecture on the harmful effects of swimming in the bay. *Tina G. Santos*

Learn English without tears at mall expo

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IN LINE WITH A FIVE-YEAR CAMpaign to promote the importance of English proficiency among the youth, the organizers of "English is Cool" will tap young people as tutors.

"Instead of the teacher-student atmosphere, we will have friends or *barkadas* teaching the students, so that learning English will be fun and conversational, not intimidating," said Junie del Mundo of Hands on Manila. The group is one of the volunteer organizations participating in the program which hopes to encourage the youth to hone their skills in speaking, writing and comprehending written or spoken English.

One of the program's projects was the recent Philippine Daily Inquirer's Inter-Collegiate Debate Championship held at UP Diliman.

"English is Cool" will also hold an expo and job fair today at the SM Megamall, where trainers and learning providers have also put up an exhibit promoting the program.

Chocolate factory closure legal, says Pasig official

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PASIG CITY LEGAL OFFICE YESTERDAY stood by its decision to close a chocolate factory of the Universal Robina Corp. for lacking the required anti-pollution devices.

The management of the company had said it would question the closure the other day of its 50-year-old plant, which manufactures wafers, chocolates and biscuits, in Barangay Bagong Ilog.

In a statement issued the other day, the company pointed out that under the Clear Air Act, only the Department of Environment and Natural Resources secretary, who chairs the Pollution Adjudication Board, could issue closure orders.

But city legal officer Carlos Abesamis, who personally served the closure order, said that the authority had been devolved and delegated to local government units.

"We have the power to order the closure," Abesamis told the INQUIRER. He also maintained that the closure was legal.

Responding to persistent complaints from neighbors, officers from the City Legal Office and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) padlocked the factory's boiler on Thursday. The boiler supplies steam to all manufacturing equipment in the plant. But Cenro officials said the plant's boiler was emitting smoke and soot because it lacked the required anti-pollution devices.

Renato de Guzman, who initiated the complaint against the factory, said about 200 families living around the plant had complained about the annoying odor months ago. Some even complained of respiratory and skin illnesses.

The plant manufactures popular products like Nips Chocolates, Cream-O and Presto Cream.

The chocolate factory was not the first UFC plant in Pasig that was closed down. Last year, the local government shut down the UFC coffee plant after an annoying odor caused dizziness and asthma attacks among residents in Barangay Rosario. It reopened several days later after complying with environmental regulations.

Bishop Tobias' outrageous statement

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NOW THAT WE'VE KNOWN WHY PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo feels the way she does about the death penalty, we can't begrudge her for practically scrapping it by commuting all death sentences to life imprisonment.

Ms Arroyo was the lone dissenting voice in the Senate when the death penalty law was passed in 1993, according to INQUIRER Research.

Her father, President Diosdado Macapagal, was also against the death penalty.

In short, President Arroyo feels very strongly against the death penalty; she didn't issue the commutation order on account of the meddling Catholic bishops.

***

We should give the President credit for being strong-minded and decisive in facing head-on controversial issues.

Other leaders would have flinched or dillydallied in the face of a strong public opinion for or against an issue such as the death penalty.

Her fault sometimes is that she doesn't consult advisers who are knowledgeable in the law.

As Jesuit priest Joaquin Bernas, a legal and constitution expert, says, for her own sake and that of the nation, she needs advisers who can dispute even her most strongly held convictions.

I urge a dear friend, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, not to be afraid in giving GMA advice in matters of the law since he's a lawyer.

***

Another fellow that I doff my hat to for having the courage to go against the tide of public opinion is Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez ordered the downgrading of the rape charge against three US Marines from principal to accessory even as he knew he was going to get brickbats from the public.

Only one Marine is accused of raping a 22-year-old Filipino woman on Nov. 1. He could face life imprisonment while the others accused as accessories could face up to 12 years in prison.

As a public official, Gonzalez is a rarity because he's not afraid to speak his mind as long as he thinks he's right. Others would simply shut up.

***

Devoid of emotions, the rape case against the three Marines—Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Chad Carpentier—would be hard to prove, according to some of my lawyer friends.

Charges against the three were downgraded (to accessories) by the justice secretary. According to Gonzalez, cheering their companion who was having sex with the Filipino woman did not constitute conspiracy.

"Conspiracy exists when two or more persons come to an agreement concerning the commission of a crime and decide to commit it," said Gonzalez.

Feminist groups will surely gang up on Gonzalez for his decision. But knowing the former Tanodbayan, he's going to take the beating stoutly.

He's been in worse scrapes before, including quarreling with some Supreme Court justices when he was Tanodbayan (now Ombudsman).

***

Invited to say a concelebrated Mass for former President Erap (Estrada), Bishop Antonio Tobias practically desecrated the memory of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for leading the 2001 People Power revolt that deposed Estrada.

Tobias asked for forgiveness from Erap for the supposed sin of Sin, in particular, and the Catholic Church, in general.

Susmaryosep! Tobias went out of bounds in asking for forgiveness from Erap.

He probably didn't have anything sensible to say in the homily, that's why he came up with the outrageous statement.

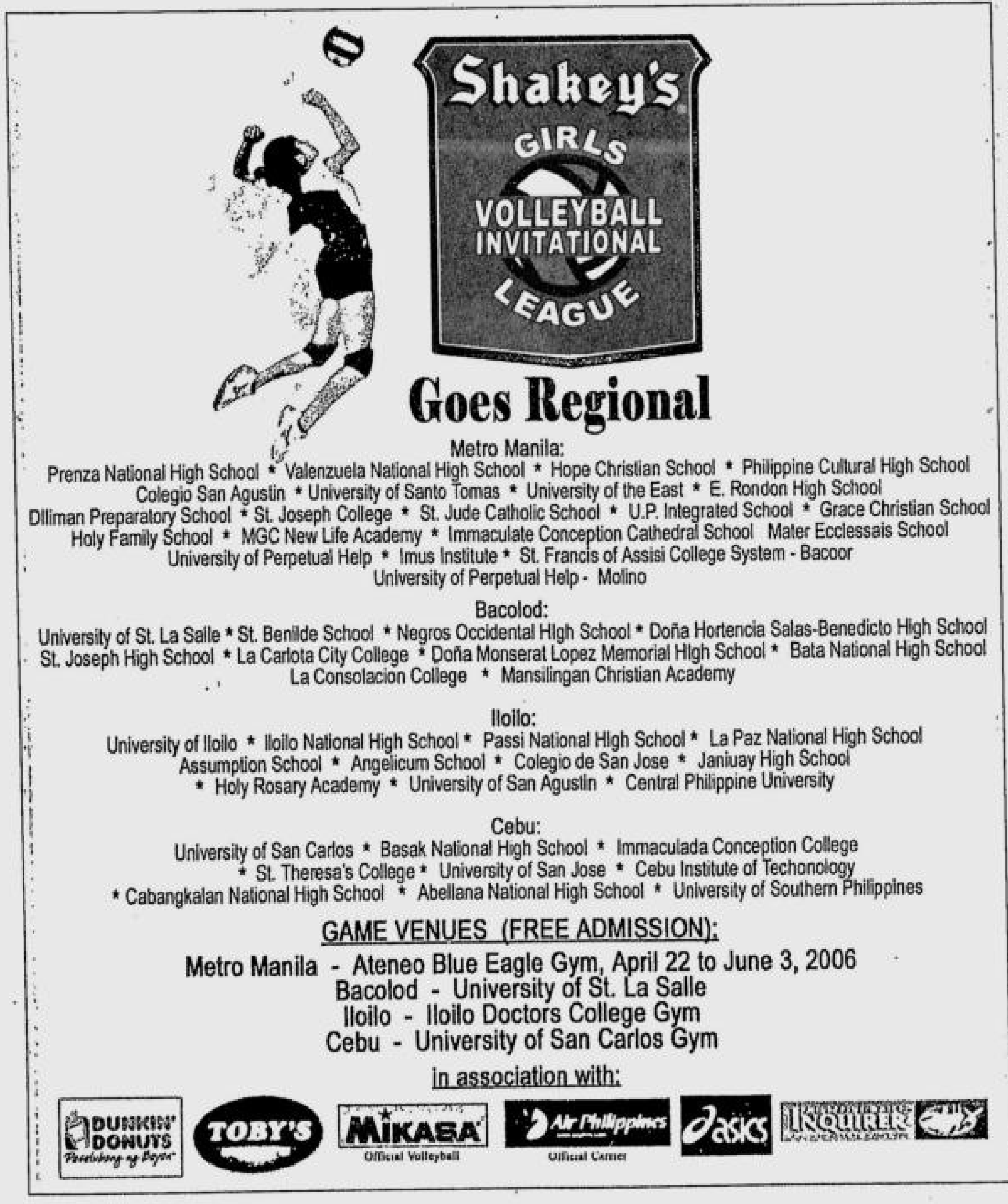
Expect cash donations to Bishop Tobias' parish to overflow.

***

A Bureau of Customs employee has a P10-million mansion at the BF Homes in Parañaque.

And you know the plantilla position of this customs employee? Clerk.

Wow!



Shakey's GIRLS VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL LEAGUE
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Colegio San Agustin * University of Santo Tomas * University of the East * E. Rondon High School
Diliman Preparatory School * St. Joseph College * St. Jude Catholic School * U.P. Integrated School * Grace Christian School
Holy Family School * MGC New Life Academy * Immaculate Conception Cathedral School Mater Ecclessais School
University of Perpetual Help * Imus Institute * St. Francis of Assisi College System - Bacoor
University of Perpetual Help - Molino

Bacolod:
University of St. La Salle * St. Benilde School * Negros Occidental High School * Doña Hortencia Salas-Benedicto High School
St. Joseph High School * La Carlota City College * Doña Monserat Lopez Memorial High School * Bata National High School
La Consolacion College * Mansilingan Christian Academy

Iloilo:
University of Iloilo * Iloilo National High School * Passi National High School * La Paz National High School
Assumption School * Angelicum School * Colegio de San Jose * Janiuay High School
* Holy Rosary Academy * University of San Agustin * Central Philippine University

Cebu:
University of San Carlos * Basak National High School * Immaculada Conception College
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US cracks down on hiring of illegal immigrants

WASHINGTON—THE APPREHENSION on Wednesday of more than 1,100 illegal immigrants employed by a pallet supply company based in Houston, as well as the arrest of seven of its managers, represented the kickoff of a more aggressive federal crackdown on employers, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Thursday.

Describing the hiring of millions of illegal workers, in some cases, as a form of organized crime, Chertoff said the government would try to combat the practice with techniques similar to those used to shut down the mob.

"We target those organizations, we use intelligence to define the scope of the organization, and then we use all of the tools we have—whether it's criminal enforcement or the immigration laws—to make sure we come down as hard as possible and break the back of those organizations," Chertoff said at a news conference.

The news conference took place just days before the Senate reconvenes and perhaps restarts a debate over a comprehensive rewriting of immigration laws. On Wednesday, federal officials apprehended 1,187 illegal immigrants employed in 26 states by IFCO Systems North America, a subsidiary of a company based in the Netherlands that supplies plastic containers and wood pallets used to ship a variety of goods, from fruit to computers.

Of the 1,187 detained workers, 275 have already been deported to Mexico. The rest are being processed for deportation, although many may be released on bond.

Homeland Security officials said company supervisors knowingly hired illegal immigrants, provided some of them housing and transportation to and from work, and even reimbursed an undercover agent for the cost of obtaining fraudulent identity documents.

An examination of the company's payroll of 5,800 employees found that just over half of them had Social Security numbers that were either invalid, belonged to a deceased person or did not match names on file, the department said.

No senior executives at the company were detained, but officials filed criminal charges against seven current or former lower-level managers and a foreman. The supervisors, from New York, Texas, Ohio and Massachusetts, were accused of conspiring to transport, harbor and induce illegal immigrants to come to the United States, charges that carry maximum sentences of up to 10 years in jail. *NYT*

Queen with 'twins' for 80th celebration

LONDON—QUEEN ELIZABETH invited 99 "twins" to Buckingham Palace on Wednesday for a slap-up lunch in the ballroom to mark the 80th birthday they all share.

The Queen, who turns 80 on Friday, was clearly moved by the celebrations, telling her guests "Thank you for coming today and I hope all those of you who are my exact twins will make the most of our special day on Friday."

"I doubt whether any of us would say the last 80 years have been plain sailing, but we can give thanks for our health and happiness, the support we receive from our families and friends, some wonderful memories and the excitement that each new day brings," she said.

QUEEN Elizabeth II looking at birthday cards April 19. AFP

The guests, who all share their birthdays on April 21, 1926, were picked for the palace lunch by ballot in January.

Reflecting on lives that began in the year of the General Strike and saw World War II as well as Britain's transformation into a prosperous modern society, she said "I believe we can and should count our blessings."

As three days of celebration began for the queen, Prime Minister Tony Blair led 80th birthday tributes in parliament, calling her one of the most "respected people of our time."

"Throughout, as part of the Royal Family and as the Queen, she has been a reassuring and unifying presence for her people," Blair told the House of Commons.

"Her Majesty shows no sign of slowing down. She has just undertaken what is her 14th tour of Australia, including the official opening of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, she attends literally hundreds of public engagements every year and is an active patron of over 600 charities and organizations." *Reuters*

AND THEY'RE YET PUPPIES AP

Chinese Shar-Pei puppies displayed for sale during the International Spring Dog Show in Havana, Cuba, April 20. More than 200 dogs of different countries are competing in the dog show.

WORLDBRIEFS

7.7-magnitude quake

MOSCOW—A magnitude 7.7- earthquake struck the Kamchatka peninsula in Russia's Far East, 6,290 km north/northeast of Moscow, on Friday, the US Geological Survey said. The tremblor, which occurred at 12:25 p.m. local time, was located 200 km northeast of Il'pyrskiy at a depth of roughly 12.6 km, the survey said on its website. The initial quake was followed by nine aftershocks in the region with magnitudes ranging between 4.5 and 5.4, according to the survey. Russia's Itar-Tass news agency, monitored by the BBC, said there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, according to a seismic research team in the Kamchatka region. *Reuters*

Nepal extends curfew

KATMANDU—Nepal extended curfew and shoot-on-sight orders Friday in the capital but pro-democracy protesters again defied security forces on the 16th day of a general strike, AFP reporters said. An alliance of opposition parties called mass demonstrations for the second day running after tens of thousands challenged soldiers and armed police defending Katmandu on Thursday. People stayed out to defy the curfew as soon as it was reimposed again at 9 a.m. on Friday. In the western district of Kalanki, where police shot dead three people and wounded scores in running battles on Thursday, mobs of youths taunted security forces, shouting "Down with the King." Burning tires blocked roads on some city streets as well as on the outskirts beyond the curfew zone, AFP reporters said. AFP

Rocking round the clock

TOKYO—A Japanese woman was sentenced Friday to one year in prison for bombarding her neighbors with loud music day and night for two and a half years. Miyoko Kawahara, 59 and jobless, blasted upbeat tunes on her radio-cassette player, causing her neighbors to feel dizzy, lose sleep and sending one woman to hospital for a month of treatment, the ruling said. "After the defendant stopped playing music the neighbors' health recovered. The defendant's act was a persistent and malicious crime aimed at troubling her neighbors," said Judge Tetsuya Okuda of Nara District Court in western Japan. Defense lawyers had argued that playing music could never be a crime. *AFP*

Bush counsel Miers could be next in revamp

WASHINGTON—JOSHUA B. BOLTEN, the new White House chief of staff, has raised the possibility of moving Harriet E. Miers from her job as President Bush's counsel as part of the continuing shake-up of the West Wing, an influential Republican with close ties to Bolten said Thursday.

The Republican, who was granted anonymity to talk openly about sensitive internal White House deliberations, said Bolten had floated the idea among confidantes, but that it was unclear whether he would follow through or if the move would be acceptable to Bush, who has a longtime personal bond with Miers.

"It's a reflection of Josh's thinking," the Republican said. "It's not a prediction that he's going to get it done."

A senior White House official denied that Bolten was considering such a step. "It's not the case," said the official, who was granted anonymity to get around the administration's policy of not commenting on personnel matters.

The shake-up continued on another front, with Republicans saying that Tony Snow, a commentator for Fox News and a former speechwriter for Bush's father, was in active negotiations for the job of White House press secretary. He would replace Scott McClellan, who announced Wednesday that he was resigning. *NYT*

Scott Crossfield, Mach 2 test pilot, dies in crash

CROSSFIELD in a centrifuge machine on Feb. 28, 1958. AP

WASHINGTON—SCOTT CROSSFIELD, A PIONEER test pilot who was the first to fly at twice the speed of sound, died when his single-engine plane crashed in Georgia, the Civil Air Patrol reported on Thursday.

Crossfield, 84, was flying from Alabama to Virginia when his plane disappeared from radar on Wednesday. The air patrol's Georgia Wing located the wreckage of the plane and confirmed the death on Thursday in a statement. Nasa also noted the death on its website, www.nasa.gov.

One of the titans of test flight, Crossfield made aeronautical history on Nov. 20, 1953, when he reached a speed of Mach 2—twice the speed of sound, more than 1,320 miles (2,124 km) an hour—in a D-558-II Skyrocket aircraft.

"Scott Crossfield was a true pioneer whose daring X-15 flights helped pave the way for the space shuttle," Nasa Administrator Michael Griffin said in a statement.

"Nasa remembers Scott not only as one of the greatest pilots who ever flew, but as an expert aeronautical engineer, aerodynamicist and designer who made significant contributions to the design and development of the X-15 research aircraft," Griffin said.

The US space agency chief added that Crossfield's work contributed to the Apollo lunar program. *Reuters*

Grass has no medical value—FDA

WASHINGTON—THE FOOD AND DRUG ADministration said Thursday that "no sound scientific studies" supported the medical use of marijuana, contradicting a 1999 review by a panel of highly regarded scientists.

The announcement inserts the health agency into yet another fierce political fight.

Susan Bro, an agency spokesperson, said Thursday's statement resulted from a past combined review by federal drug enforcement, regulatory and research agencies that concluded "smoked marijuana has no currently accepted or proven medical use in the United States and is not an approved medical treatment."

"Any enforcement based on this finding would need to be by DEA, since this falls outside of FDA's regulatory authority," she said.

Eleven states have legalized medicinal uses of marijuana, but the Drug Enforcement Administration and the nation's drug czar, John Walters, have opposed those efforts.

Congressional opponents and supporters of medical marijuana have each tried to enlist the FDA to support their views. Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., an opponent of medical marijuana initiatives, proposed legislation two years ago that would have required the FDA to issue an opinion on the medicinal properties of the drug.

Souder believes that efforts to legalize medicinal uses of marijuana are "a front" for efforts to legalize all uses of marijuana.

The FDA statement contradicts a 1999 review by the Institute of Medicine, a part of the National Academy of Sciences, the nation's most prestigious scientific evaluative agency. That review found marijuana to be "moderately well suited for particular conditions, such as chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting and AIDS wasting." *NYT*

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10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Standard Immigration Seminar
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM English is Cool game
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM St. Luke's Medical Center Presentation
12:30 PM – 01:00 PM Free Trade Colloquim by APFTI
01:00 PM – 02:00 PM Citigroup's Career Talk
02:00 PM – 03:00 PM Career Talk about "Essential English Comm. In the Global Workplace - from the BPO Perspective" with AVP Showing - Speaker: Bob Greenleaf, Dir. Of People Support University
03:00 PM – 04:00 PM Asian Hospital Presentation : Men's Health Speaker: Dr. Abelardo Predigalidad
04:00 PM – 04:30 PM The Merry Cooks Cooking Demo
04:30 PM – 05:00 PM English is Cool
05:00 PM – 06:00 PM InfoNXX
06:00 PM – 07:00 PM Clark Development Presentation
07:00 PM – 07:30 PM Chateau 1771 Cooking Demo

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No breakthroughs in Bush-Hu talks

WASHINGTON — PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH FAILED TO WIN a commitment from Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday on immediate steps to reduce China's $202-billion trade surplus with the United States.

CHINESE President Hu Jintao and US President Bush. AP

Hu did give Bush a general assurance he was working to make the Chinese currency more "flexible" but this fell far short of US demands for a dramatic revaluation of the yuan as a way to make US products more competitive in Chinese and global markets and reduce the trade imbalance.

The two leaders also failed to bridge differences over how to deal with Iran's nuclear ambitions. Bush wants China to agree to tougher UN Security Council action, but his arguments did not persuade Hu.

Speaking in the Oval Office, the two leaders said their bilateral relationship had matured and they could discuss differences openly. "He tells me what he thinks, and I tell him what I think, and we do so with respect," Bush said.

On a long-awaited visit to the White House, Hu received the 21-gun salute and full military honors the Chinese had coveted as a sign of respect.

But in an embarrassing episode that marred the South Lawn ceremony and created a diplomatic stir, a Chinese woman on a press camera platform heckled Hu just as he began speaking.

"President Hu, your days are numbered. President Bush, make him stop persecuting Falun Gong," she yelled, referring to the spiritual meditation movement that is banned in China.

She was led away by a Secret Service uniformed guard for questioning, and was later identified as Wang Wenyi, 47, a reporter for The Epoch Times, a New York-based newspaper that supports the Falun Gong.

Bush personally apologized to Hu for the incident. "I'm sorry this happened," he told Hu, according to Dennis Wilder, Asia expert on the National Security Council.

The Secret Service charged the woman with disorderly conduct and was weighing more serious federal charges that she intimidated or disrupted a foreign official.

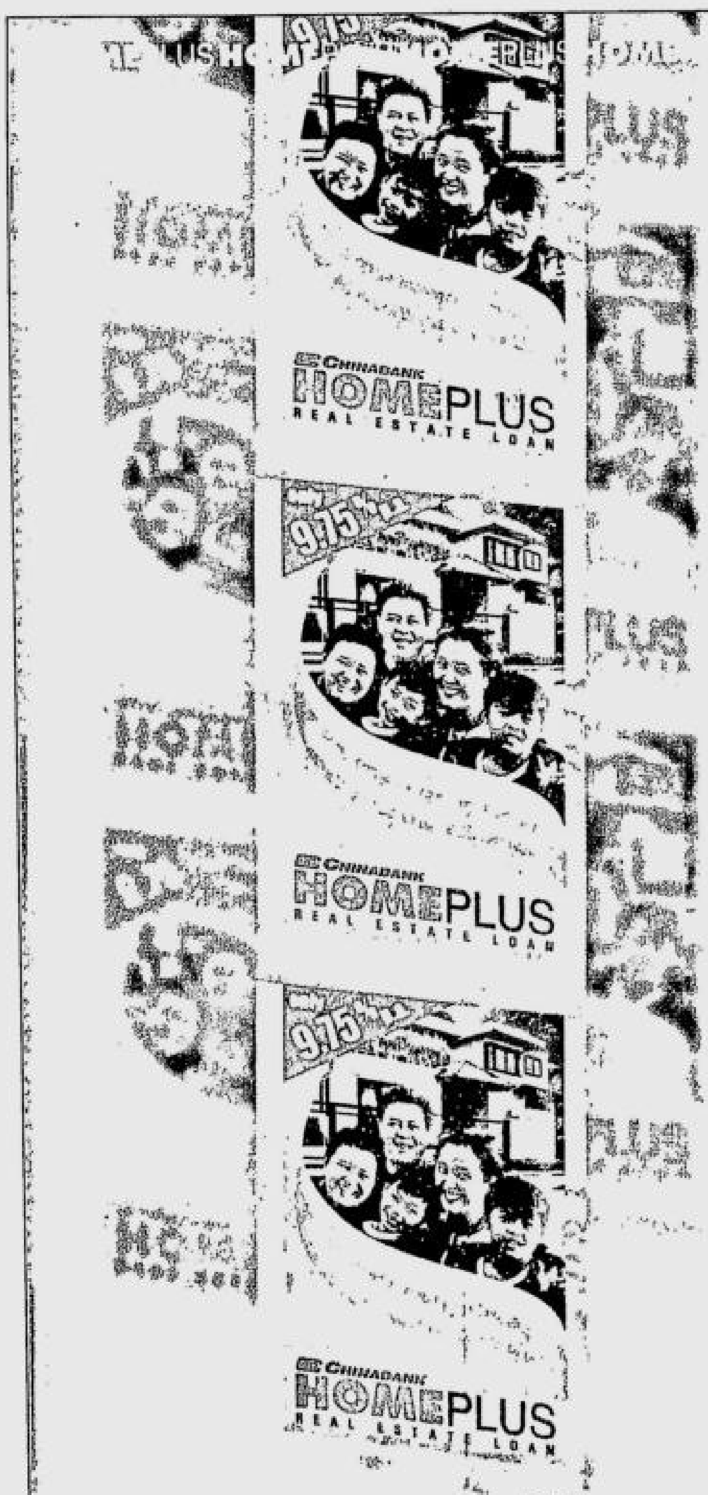
US officials were annoyed by the interruption.

"The hardliners on Hu's team are going to ask, why did it take so long for us to pick her up. It is not a good thing," said a US official involved in Hu's visit.

Chinese media made no mention of the incident nor of the hundreds of protesters—from yellow-clad Falun Gong disciples to Taiwanese nationalists waving green flags and Tibetan youth groups—drawn near the White House by Hu's visit.

Talks between Bush and Hu began in the Oval Office, spilled into the Cabinet Room and continued during a formal luncheon when they broke protocol and sat next to each other so they could keep talking.

US National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley told Reuters China appears willing to resolve three of six-long standing human rights cases after Hu returns home. "We think we're going to make progress on three of them," he said. *Reuters*



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RP Open back to W'Wack

By Jong Arcano

THE PHILIPPINE OPEN IS GOING back to its old home: the fabled east course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. And millions of television viewers around the world will even get to witness it live.

The Asian Tour and the National Golf Association of the Philippines yesterday announced the selection of Wack Wack as the venue for the 90th edition of the Open on May 25-28 with the promise of a powerhouse cast and one of its biggest pot money in years.

Patrick Young, the head of tour development of the Asian Tour, said that the Open is "definitely going ahead" and that everyone is working hard to ensure its success.

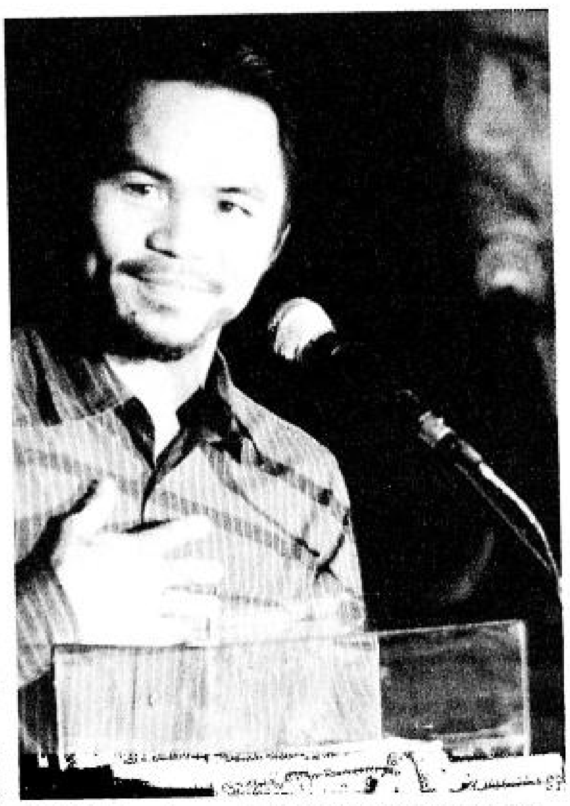
Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos, president of Wack Wack, said that they were "very pleased and excited" to have the Open back to their club.

They are now in the process of sprucing up all the facilities of the Open and are even constructing a viewing deck that will allow spectators to see the action on the 9th and 18th greens and also on the first hole.

ESPN will do the day-to-day satellite coverage of the tournament and will be beaming it live to an estimated 266 million homes in 32 countries including China, India, Europe and the Middle East.

ABC 5 will handle the local coverage.

Sponsorship deals are being finalized and if expectations are realized, the Open will carry a total pot of $300,000 (P15 M) with the winner getting at least 30 percent of it.



MANNY Pacquiao accepts the "Boxer of the Year" award during the GAB Boxing Convention Thursday night. ERIK ARAZAS

UAAP slaps 1-year ban on De La Salle

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UAAP BOARD YESTERDAY SUSpended De La Salle University for one year from all league sports, saying it was through its own negligence that the school fielded two ineligible players in the men's basketball tournament.

The decision was reached after a six-hour deliberation at the president's conference room of Adamson University.

"DLSU knew or ought to have known about the matter at the time that these documents were presented for eligibility purposes to the UAAP," the UAAP board said in a released statement.

School representatives unanimously voted on the suspension of La Salle for fielding two ineligible players in the men's basketball tournament in the last three years.

The board, however, ended with a 5-2 vote on the length of suspension. Five of the seven member-schools voted for a one-year ban from the premier collegiate league, while two opted for a two-year penalty.

La Salle did not vote in the two-round secret balloting.

The league, however, did not disclose the result of its own investigation on the six-month-old case involving Archers Mark Benitez and Tim Gatchalian.

"It has always been a rule that each member university has the responsibility to ensure that the eligibility documents are to be authenticated and/or verified prior to or at the time of submission, as it is even required to bear the signature of its Board Representative and Registrar," the UAAP statement said.

In reaching the decision, the UAAP board also noted that it took months before La Salle admitted that Benitez and Gatchalian submitted spurious academic eligibility records.

La Salle officials said it would wait for the official report of its two board representatives—Danny Jose and Lito Tanjuatco—before discussing its next course of action.

"According to the rule, any school is allowed to make an appeal," said UAAP president Fr. Max Rendon of Adamson.

Pacquiao-Morales III on at 130

THE DREAM THIRD CLASH BEtween pound-for-pound superstars Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines and Erik Morales of Mexico is pushing through this year at 130 pounds.

The final hump to the much-anticipated rubber match has just been hurdled and the fight is now set to go sometime in October or November.

Promoter Bob Arum revealed to Maxboxing.com yesterday that the prospect of Manny Pacquiao and Erik Morales breaking the weight impasse is almost certain after the Mexican boxing legend agreed to follow what had been stipulated in the rubber match contract.

"Morales has agreed to go at 130 pounds. We're going to do it at 130 and we're going to do it in October or November," Arum told Steve Kim.

Morales outpointed Pacquiao in their first encounter at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas in March 2005. But Pacquiao nearly sent his rival to retirement with a devastating 10th round stoppage last January.

Morales, who has hired a weight conditioning specialist, had initially insisted he would honor the rubber match contract at the catch weight of 132 pounds. Pacquiao refused to bite.

Pacquiao told the INQUIRER the other night at the GAB Boxing Convention, where he was handed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and chair Eric Buhain the "Boxer of the Year" award, that he will definitely give Morales a third fight.

He however emphasized he was not looking past the dangerous Oscar Larios whom he fights on July 2.

Pacquiao is set to fly to the United States next month to start rigid training for the Larios fight. He returns to the country in June to continue his training at a secluded training camp in Baguio City.

Rex "Wakee" Salud, a close associate of the Filipino boxing icon, said Pacquiao is also set to attend various press conferences for the Larios fight in the US.

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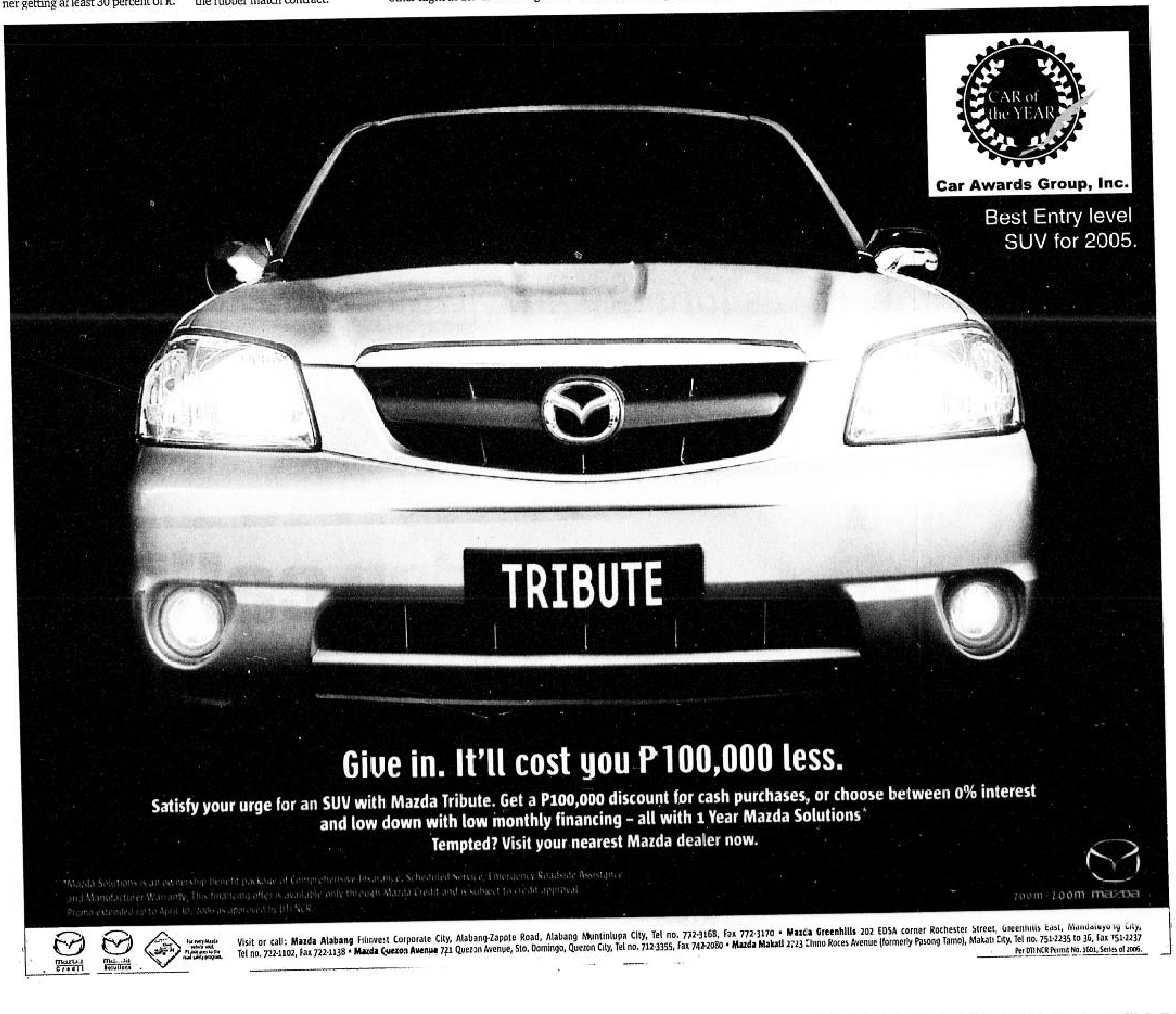
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Badminton expo today

TOP MERCHANTS IN THE badminton industry come together for the INQUIRER Badminton Expo at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City starting today.

The two-day event will offer up to 70 percent price-cuts from leading badminton brands, sports outlets and distributors of equipment, footwear, apparel and accessories.

The Expo will be open from 11:30 a.m. to midnight, capped by the San Miguel Open House Party.

Also scheduled are the Mizuno Dodgeball Tournament at 4 to 6 p.m. and the Kimono Celebrity Challenge at 6 to 9 p.m.

Distributors include Kimoni, Gosen, Asics, Toby's Sports, Sportshouse, Adidas, Chris Sports, Victor, Prince, Wilson, Kason, Racquets and More, Hooked, Badmintonshirts Unlimited, Anna Banana and RSL. Exhibitors include Eurotrade/Takomi, Taraflex, Puyat Vinyl, BSI Medicated Spray, Triso International, Teebox, CLIQ, Cut Unlimited, Raymundo's Trophies, Aktivade, Lipton Iced Tea, Rockwell-Land and INQUIRER Badminton.

GAMES TODAY
(Blue Eagle Gym)
3 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
4 p.m.—PCU vs Adamson
6 p.m.—Ateneo vs University of East

Shakey's V-League gets going

THE SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE, the premier volleyball loop in the country, gets going today with the core of four top collegiate teams mixing it up starting at 4 p.m. at the Blue Eagle Gym in Quezon City.

Philippine Christian University and Adamson, runners-up in the NCAA and UAAP respectively, collide in the curtain-raiser, hoping to make an impressive debut in the league.

Ateneo and University of the East square off at 6 p.m. to complete the twinbill that will be telecast over ABC-5 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez will grace the opening rites.

Presented by Shakey's Pizza and backed by Accel and Mikasa, games will be played every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Two-time champion La Salle will see action on Monday along with San Sebastian, Lyceum and Far Eastern University. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

JIMMY Alapag of Talk 'N Text calls for timeout while on the floor as Nelbert Omolon of Sta. Lucia looks on. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Cardona lifts Pals to third straight win

GAME TODAY
(*Capiz Gymnasium, Roxas City, Capiz*)
4:40 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

By June Navarro

MAC CARDONA POSTED HANDsome figures and Talk 'N Text banked on the big return of Donbel Belano to carve out a methodical 98-90 victory over Sta. Lucia Realty in the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cardona lit up the scoreboards with 16 points on top of six rebounds, five assists and a career-high five steals to help the Phone Pals pick up their third straight win, fifth overall in nine games.

But it was Belano, reactivated from the injury roster a few days back, who provided the spark on two occasions that deflated the Realtors.

The second-string playmaker knocked in nine points during Talk 'N Text's mild uprising in the second period and later delivered six decisive markers, highlighted by a three-pointer, to put the outcome beyond doubt.

"If you noticed, Jimmy (Alapag) had overextended minutes prior to this game," said Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren. "Donbel's return took the pressure off Jimmy."

In the second game, Red Bull defeated Ginebra, 83-68, to snap a four-game losing streak and improve to 4-6. Ginebra dropped to 4-5.

The scores:

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 98—Cardona 16, Ferriols 16, Alapag 16, Belano 15, Taulava 10, Carey 9, Miller 9, Juinio 5, Pablo 2, Avenido 0.

STA. LUCIA 90—Espino 21, Cali 16, Omolon 12, Gonzales 10, Torion 9, Mendoza 7, Calimag 6, Tolomia 4, Cabagnot 3, Duremdes 2, Agapito 0, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 19-22, 47-36, 71-59, 98-90.

AF3 holds street drive

RACING ENTHUSIASTS WILL get a closer look at their racing heroes and their powerful machines tomorrow when the Asian Formula Three Corp. holds the first-ever street drive on Roxas Blvd. in cooperation with Ginebra San Miguel.

Local and foreign drivers will show their racing skills aboard their Formula 3 cars in the event starting at 2 p.m. from Quirino Ave. to Padre Faura St. Dubbed the "Ginebra San Miguel Street Drive," it is open to the public.

Among the drivers participating are AF3 regulars Dado Peña, Tyson Sy and Pepon Marave of the Philippines, James Winslow of England and John O'Hara of Ireland, along with Dillon Battistini of England, Alistair Jackson of Ireland and Filipino lady driver Gaby dela Merced.

Winslow finished third overall in last year's AF3 circuit while Sy was a close fourth. Peña came in sixth. Dela Merced has made the jump from Formula Toyota and BMW racing to Formula Three.

"It's an exhibit of various disciplines of motorsports," said AF3 Corp. chair Ed Peña. "We are holding this to show to the public that the Philippines is the leader in motorsports in Asia, that motorsports is an industry that provides livelihood to a lot of people."

Miñoza shares 3rd

FILIPINO ACE FRANKIE MIÑOZA stayed on track towards ending a long title drought after he matched par 72 and move up to a share of third place in the provisional standings in the weather-disrupted second round of the $1.8 million BMW Asian Open in Shanghai, China.

Miñoza, the former Asian No. 1, had 141 aggregate at the Tomson Shanghai Pudong Golf Club. Henrik Stenson of Sweden was 5 under through 35 holes and was on the 18th green when play was called due to a storm. He was just a stroke ahead of Paul Lawrie of England who fired a 70.

Angelo Que, the other Filipino in the field, missed the cut with a 78-155.

Explorers thwart Iligan Crusaders

PAGADIAN CITY—MAYOR SAMMY Co's Pagadian Explorers leaned on ex-pro Peter Naron to subdue Firefly Lightings-backed Iligan Crusaders, 91-86, Thursday night in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the jam-packed city gym here.

Naron fired 14 of his game-high 28 points in the payoff period as the Explorers chalked up their first win in three games in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

The Crusaders of Mayor Lawrence Cruz were still ahead, 82-80, when Naron struck hard from the stripes, converting all his nine attempts in the final quarter to cap the Explorers' comeback.

Naron also had six rebounds and two assists.

Another ex-pro, Bong Marata, and new recruit Lou Gatumbato ably backed Naron. A former PBL player, Gatumbato gave stability to the Explorers' backcourt.

Tyler leads Cebu bets

MIKE TYLER AND ALFONSO "PONsoy" Canizares will lead poker players from Cebu in the Main Event of the Million-Peso Hold 'em Philippine Championship on April 29-30 at the Casino Filipino Parañaque.

Tyler placed second in the Poker King Challenge Series while Canizares finished fourth in the Casino Tagaytay Hold 'em tournament.

The winners in the satellite tournaments every Friday at Rajah Park Hotel in Cebu City will advance to the Main Event. Other Cebuano qualifiers were Nonoy Tirol, Bob McQuaid, Tonyson Lee, Edwin Medalle, Wade Kaupke, Jeremy Chung, Manuel Regis and Raymund Garcia.

The search for the Philippine Poker Champion is backed by Philippine Poker Tour, Solar and Pagcor. Contact 817-9092 or 812-0153.

SPORTSWATCH

Abapo, Batawang fight in QC card

PHILIPPINE junior welterweight champion Bart Abapo and world-ranked Bert Batawang lead fighters seeing action today in Barangay Paltok, District 1, Quezon City. Organized by the Joseph Juico Sports Entertainment Program, the six-bout event is open to the public. Abapo takes on Christopher Saluday in the 10-round mainer, while WBA Pan-African champ Batawang takes on Noel Veronque in another 10-rounder. Top-ranking bantam Johnny Lear fights the undercard against Daniel Diolan. Other bouts pit Sherwin Paro against Roberto Rubillar, Ruther Del Castillo against Roel Lagonero and Michael Correa versus Max Orcajada. *Salven Lagumbay*

Premier Football League today

THE FIRST MPLFA-AAVA Premier Football League kicks off today at the Cuenca field in Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Eight teams clash in the event organized by the Muntinlupa, Parañaque and Las Piñas Football Association headed by Cathy Rivilla. The squads are Alabang Nite Club, Altas, Juventud, Ramrod, Tahanan Football Club, San Beda-Alabang, Muntinlupa and MSA FC. The event is co-sponsored by Ford and Siemens. Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez, Rep. Ruffy Biazon, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Councilor Renren Cayetano and Benjo Bernabe were invited to grace the opening ceremonies.

JVC jr badminton resumes in Pampanga

HOSTILITIES in the JVC Open Juniors Badminton Championships resume today with action in the last 16 in the girls' singles and doubles event on tap at SM Pampanga. Malvinne Alcala of Marikina Sports Hub and Gelita Castillo of Centro Atletico take on separate foes, eyeing a spot in the last 8 and a possible showdown for the 12-under title in the event sponsored by JVC (Phils.) Inc. The boys' singles and doubles events will be played tomorrow, according to the organizing IMG.

Tatap national selection tournament

SPONSORS are lining up for the Tatap (Table Tennis Association of the Philippines) National Selection Tournament from May 3 to 6 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. "Pagcor, Unilab, San Miguel and PCSO have expressed their interest in supporting the Tatap National Selection competitions," Tatap president Vic Valbuena said. "I think this is a recognition of the growing potential of table tennis."

La Salle seeks solo top spot

Games Today *(San Juan gym)*
12 noon—UP vs La Salle (HS/AS)
3 p.m.—FEU vs Ateneo (AS/HS)

DE LA SALLE SEEKS TO REGAIN SOLO LEADERship when it clashes with winless University of the Philippines today at the resumption of the Total-Filoil-Flying V Homegrown Cup at the San Juan gym.

The La Salle All-Stars (3-0), behind ex-PBA players Tony Boy Espinosa and Alvin Magpantay, battle the UP Fighting Maroons (0-2) at 1:30 p.m.

In the other All-Star match, Far Eastern University—with Glenn Capacio, Joel Valle, Ronald Magtulis and the Pasco brothers, Rod and Dan—(1-2) battles Ateneo (0-3) at 3 p.m.

High school games pit UPIS against La Salle-Greenhills at noon and FEU against Ateneo at :30.

The event is sponsored by Globe and Shell and supported by Sunbolt, Immuvit, Accel, Gerry's Grill, Bank of Commerce, Banco de Oro, Security Bank, X-24, PBCom, Millennium Plans and Inihaw Circle.

Spring Oil stays clean

REIGNING TITLIST SPRING Cooking Oil played true to form to beat King's Bakeshop, 84-70, and extended its winning streak to five games Thursday in the 2006 PICAA Open basketball tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym in Manila.

Aldrin Morante, Mark Yee and Bobby Barnson combined for 37 points for Spring, which erected several double-digit leads to repeat over King's Bakeshop in the tourney supported by Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna, Tomich Café (Dapitan) and Chloe Lightings.

Morante scattered 17 points while Yee and Barnson had 10 each for the Cooking Oil Masters of national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

UP-Mighty Filter Kings turned back Homer Cagers, 86-77, in the other game to level their record at 2-2.

Escoses lone RP survivor

LLOYD ESCOSES, THE COUNtry's No. 1 shuttler, defeated Hew Leon of Malaysia, 21-9, 21-13, Thursday to remain the only Filipino standing in the Robot Vietnam Satellite badminton championship in Ho Chi Minh City.

The victory made up for the sorry losses suffered by his teammates Wally Fernandez and Wilson Frias after scoring impressive second-round victories also in the men's singles.

Fernandez fell to Malaysia's Lim Kenn (7-21, 12-21), while Frias bowed to Ronald Susilo of Singapore (11-21, 14-21) in the meet which is expected to gauge the country's chances in the Philippine Open next month.

National coach Errol Chan said he's satisfied with the way the Filipinos played considering that the best players in the world saw action in the meet.

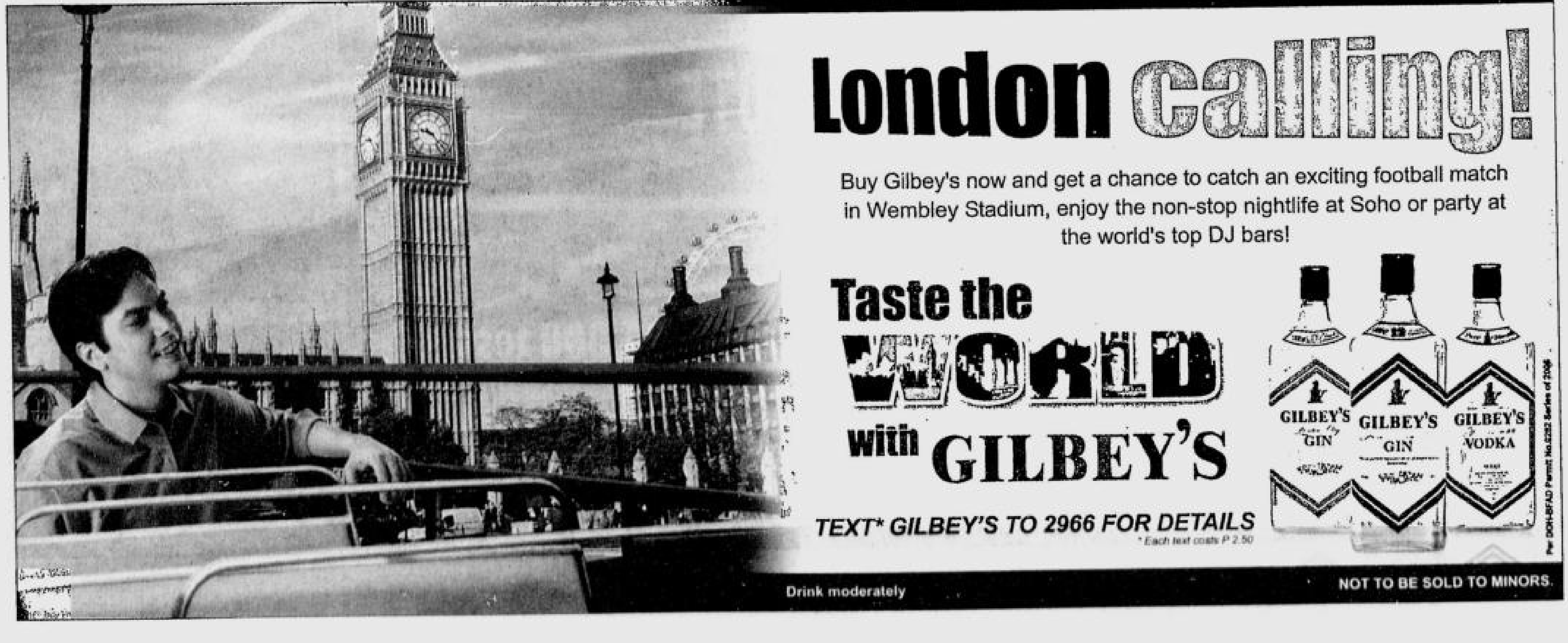
Jaime Junio and Therine Chan dropped a 15-21, 12-21 decision to Malaysians Goh Ying Jin and Kaur Anita Raj, while Frias and Paula Chan lost to a Vietnamese pair, 12-21, 14-21.

Marc Anthony Reyes

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Society Climber (6), Ocean Dignity (5), Chances Are (3), Ikaw Lang (4)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Iron Tower (1), War Lord (9), Hammar It Home (3), Sally Forever (5), Black Pearl (7)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Love and Money (5), Diamond Sky (6), Alert One (8), Island King (3)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Eral's Game/Gigi's Gold (5), Valiente (4), Modern Classic (6), Power Dance (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Crystal City (7), Rockwell (8), Queen Banana (3), Tiger Rally (5)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Casanova (5), Speed Bullet (10), Gung Ho (4), Five O'Clock (1), Bunker Buster (9)
Race 7—(Tri)—The Boss' Daughter (1), Marque (4), Win After Win (3)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Pirouette (4), Centra (7), Mesmerize (3), Anytime Anywhere (6)
Race 9—Heroics/Staunch Ally (1), Madam Cognac's/Simply Angie (2), Frosty Bally (8), Hear Me (3), Money Matter/Tinder (5)
Race 10—Top Of D'Line (5), Going Strike (2), Gun Powder (6), Mas Que Nada (1)
Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Distinctive Dancer (6), Mr. Lucas (5), Uncle (4), Il Amorosa (8), Best Strike (3)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Don Paolo (2), Last Hazm (6), Native Land (5), Might And Power (1)
Race 12—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Kawiliwili (5), Kalashnikov (6), Magiliw (8), Through The Fire (10), Carolian Belle (3), Express Strike (2)



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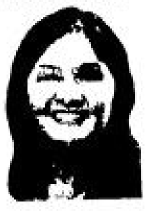


Beth Celis

I'M BLUSHING PURple as I write this.

I am, at the moment, reading a lewd message from a male Friendster, a popular assistant coach of an equally popular PBA team, sent to a female friendster, the sexy, live-in partner of his alumni teammate.

I've heard of phone sex, but this is the first time I've come across Internet sex.

Frankly, I thought this former cager was wholesome. At least, that's the image he projects. I didn't know he had a sexual perversion.

The seduction is objectionable because the lady's boyfriend is not only a teammate but a friend. He was shocked when his girlfriend showed him the message that came from somebody he considered his college buddy.

***

Allow me to print some of the less censurable parts:

"You're so hot! Text me at these nos. (he gives two). I'm hoping you will let me have my way with your sexy body. Promise nobody will know. I will kiss you from your head, to your breast, down to your {bleep!}."

And then the assistant coach proceeds to describe, in lurid detail, how he will complete the seduction. I'm not printing his succeeding lines which are fit only for porno publications. (For sure, these will be censored by my editors.)

The assistant coach ends the letter by reminding the object of his lust to call. Again, he promises that nobody will know.

What infuriates the boyfriend no end is the presumptuousness of the indecent proposer.

"He has the delusion that he is God's gift to women, and he seems to be very confident that his quarry will fall prey to his advances," the boyfriend said.

I'm not sure how the boyfriend will handle the situation, but if I were the lecher, I'd be worried. Friends in the PBA circles say this guy has a weakness for his teammates' partners.

***

The invitation from Adidas assistant communications manager Odette Velarde said it was going to be a surprise birthday party in honor of officemate Goody Custodio, who was turning 39 this April. Odette said we had to be at the Vanilla Bar along Sgt. Esguerra Avenue at 6 p.m., not a minute more.

I was frantic when I got to the place way past 6 p.m. but, to my surprise, there was hardly anybody inside the bar, except colleague Bill Velasco and his writer friend Yonin.

Noting my puzzled look, Bill declared: "That's the surprise, there's nobody here!" he said.

It didn't take long, though, before celebrities started pouring in, most of them Adidas endorsers: Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva, Larry Fonacier, and Topex Robinson, Purefoods' Ryan Gregorio, Ronnie Magsanoc, wife Bing, and Peter Jun Simon, Chirstian Luanzon of Harbour Centre, Reed Juntilla of Montaña, Solar's Jude Turcuato, Adidas general manager John Alonte and marketing director Angelica Suiza soon filled up two long tables.

Goody finally arrived at 9 p.m. with friend Solomon Cu who planned the party and dragged him there. We were a bit surprised that Goody wasn't that surprised. He must've gotten wind of it earlier. But he was visibly pleased. He said his birthday was actually two days earlier.

***

At the party, Danny E was busy distributing a letter from GMA-7's "Wish Ko Lang" show inviting the recipient to a special tribute to cager Hernani Demegillo on Wednesday, April 26, at 12 noon.

Most of those invited were Demegillo's former teammates like Abe King, Pading Israel, Boy Cristobal, Willie Grinilao, Onse Dela Cruz, Alan Caidic, Victorino and Buchmannnn, to name a few."

"Wish *ko lang, sana tama ang* spelling *ng mga* names," commented Bill V. after reading the letter.

Jewels try to keep lead

INTERIM COACH NEL PARADO didn't expect the Montaña Jewels to adapt quickly to his system, but he hopes the Jewels will continue their cohesive play when they face Harbour Centre in the PBL Unity Cup today.

"I didn't expect that we'll have a good start," said Parado, who was tapped as interim coach less than two months ago. "But I've always thought Harbour Centre is a good team. From the start, I picked them as one of the top teams."

The Jewels will vie to keep the solo lead at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. battle between last conference's finalists Rain or Shine and Magnolia Ice Cream at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

Veterans Alex Compton and Eric dela Cuesta keyed the Jewels' bid for the solo lead at 5-1 after nipping Hapee-PCU, 90-81, in overtime last Tuesday.

Joseph Yeo proved to be instrumental in Harbour Centre's resurgence, averaging 22 points in the Portmasters' back-to-back victories.

Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES TODAY (Olivarez Sports Center)

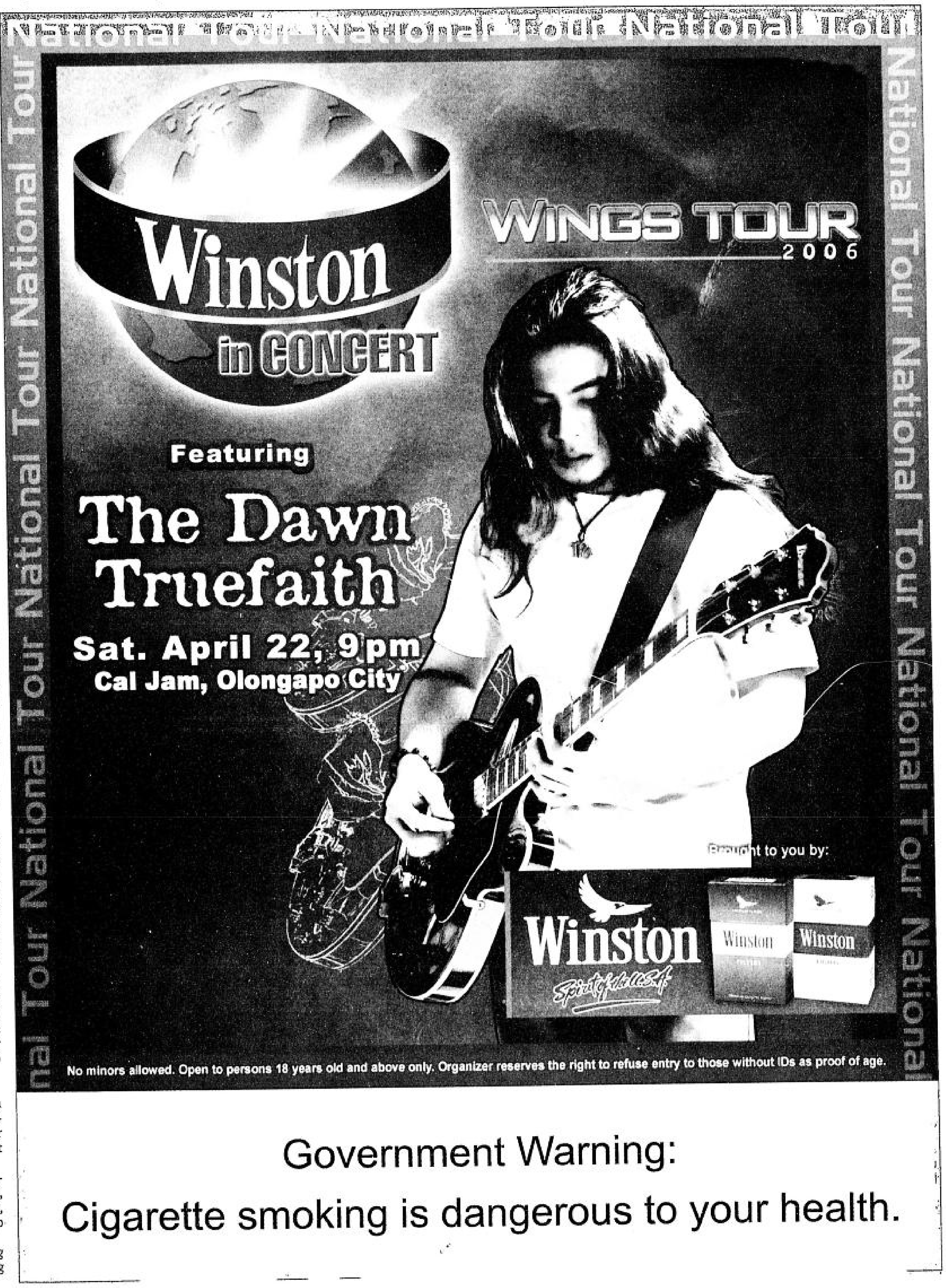
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre versus Montaña
4 p.m.—Magnolia versus Rain or Shine

Lasuc tops Pasuc

LUZON ASSOCIATION of State Universities and Colleges (Lasuc) ruled the 1st Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (Pasuc) National Sports Olympics with a haul of 166 gold, 66 silver and 16 bronze medals.

Second place went to Mindanao Association of State Universities and Colleges Foundation (Mascuf) with a 38-87-65 tally while Visayas Association of State Universities and Colleges (Vasuc) ended with a 0-38-105 haul at the Marikina Sports Plaza, Marikina City.

Most bemedaled athlete was Merily Teodisio of RTU and Lasuc, who grabbed 5 golds in triple jump, long jump, high jump, 4x100 and 4x400 meter relays.



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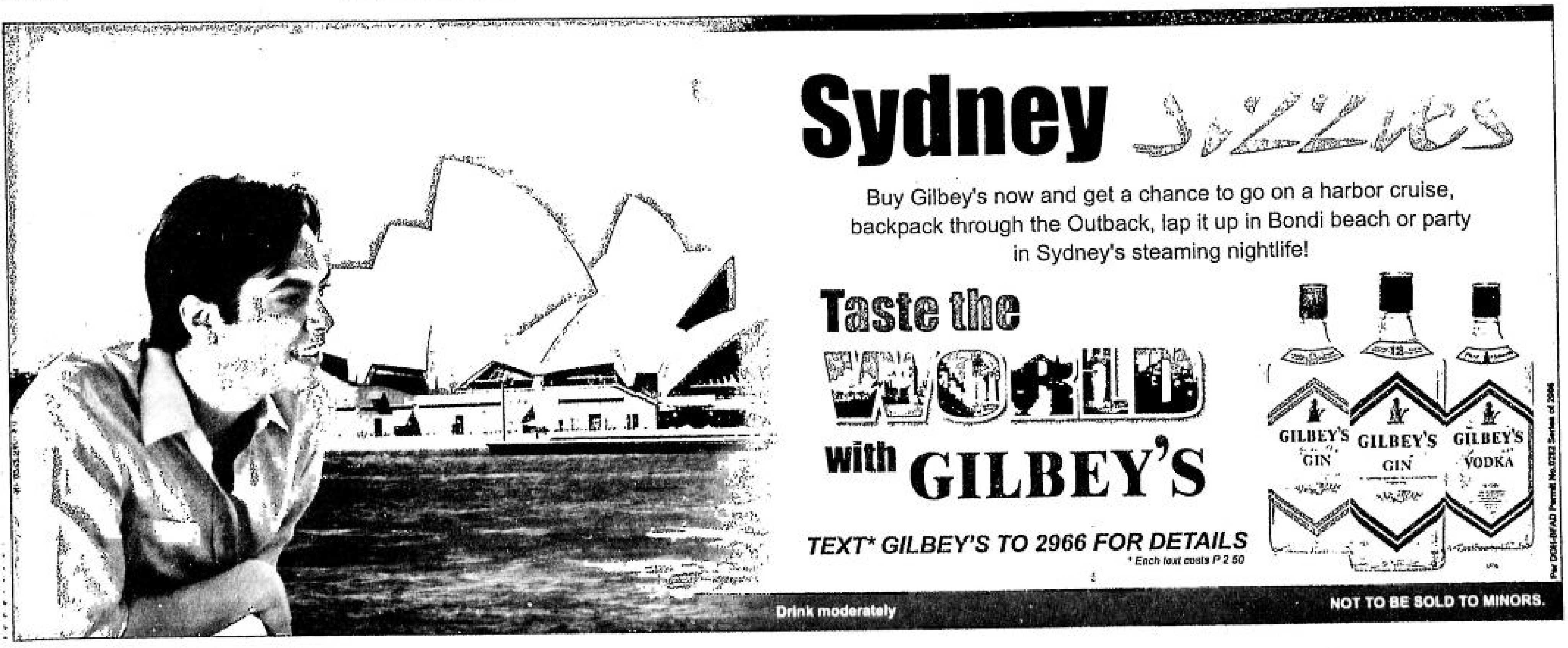

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Dunk legend hits town

DARRYL DAWKINS, WHO GOES BY THE moniker Chocolate Thunder, is coming. And he's got a name for every dunk he'll make.

The former Philadelphia 76er planes in Monday morning to join other former National Basketball Association greats in The Bad Boy Tour.

The 6-foot-11 banger, whose 14-year career also saw stops in New Jersey, Detroit and Utah, is one of the former NBA superstars who will play the San Miguel All-Stars on Thursday in Mandaue and with Pilipinas Basketball on May 1 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I'll dunk every time the opportunity presents itself," Dawkins said. "And for the Filipino fans, I'll name each one of them."

DAWKINS

Dawkins entered the 1975 draft as a 19-year-old and was chosen fifth overall by the 76ers, becoming the first-ever player to make the NBA straight out of high school.

Dawkins' crowd-pleasing flamboyance was one of his trademarks, along with the slam dunks he made, which, incidentally, he all named. The "In-Your-Face-Disgrace," "Your Momma," the "Earthquake Breaker" the "Turbo Sexophonic Delight" and the "Go-Rilla Dunk" were just some of the slams that Dawkins christened.

He will start at center for the NBA greats, which will be reinforced by similar high-flying standouts of the NBA's developmental league.

"Darryl personally told me that these games will not be Sunday drive," Mario Whitmire, president of the organizing West End Sports, said.

The game at the Big Dome on Thursday will be against Chot Reyes' formidable team made up of the finest stars in the Philippine Basketball Association and the Philippine Basketball League.

Joining Dawkins in the NBA All Star team are Otis Birdsong, Sidney Moncrief, Hall-of-Famers Calvin Murphy and Alex English and bad boy Dennis Rodman.

The game is set at 5:30 p.m.

NBA playoffs: LeBron finally in, Kobe returns

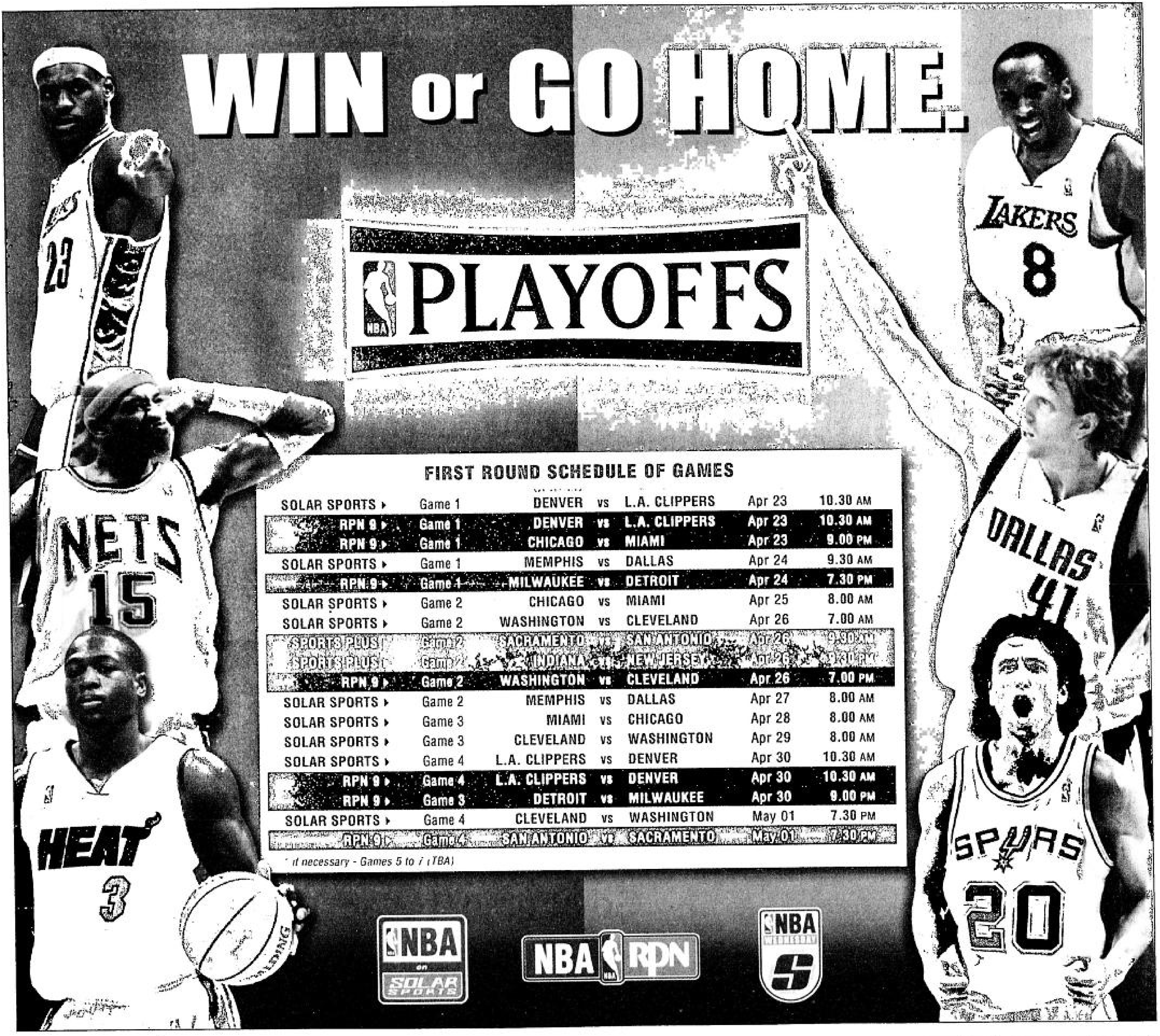
NEW YORK—THE NATIONAL BASketball Association is heading into the premier part of its season—the playoffs, and it has its two biggest attractions in the center of the spotlight.

Last year, neither LeBron James' Cleveland Cavaliers nor Kobe Bryant's Los Angeles Lakers qualified for the playoffs, leaving both out of the part of the NBA season that can make careers.

James thought he was headed there last year before a late-season collapse left the Cleveland Cavaliers at home. Now in his third year, he's ready to make up for lost time.

"I don't put timelines on anything," James said Thursday. "It's unfortunate I didn't make it the last two years, but I'm here now."

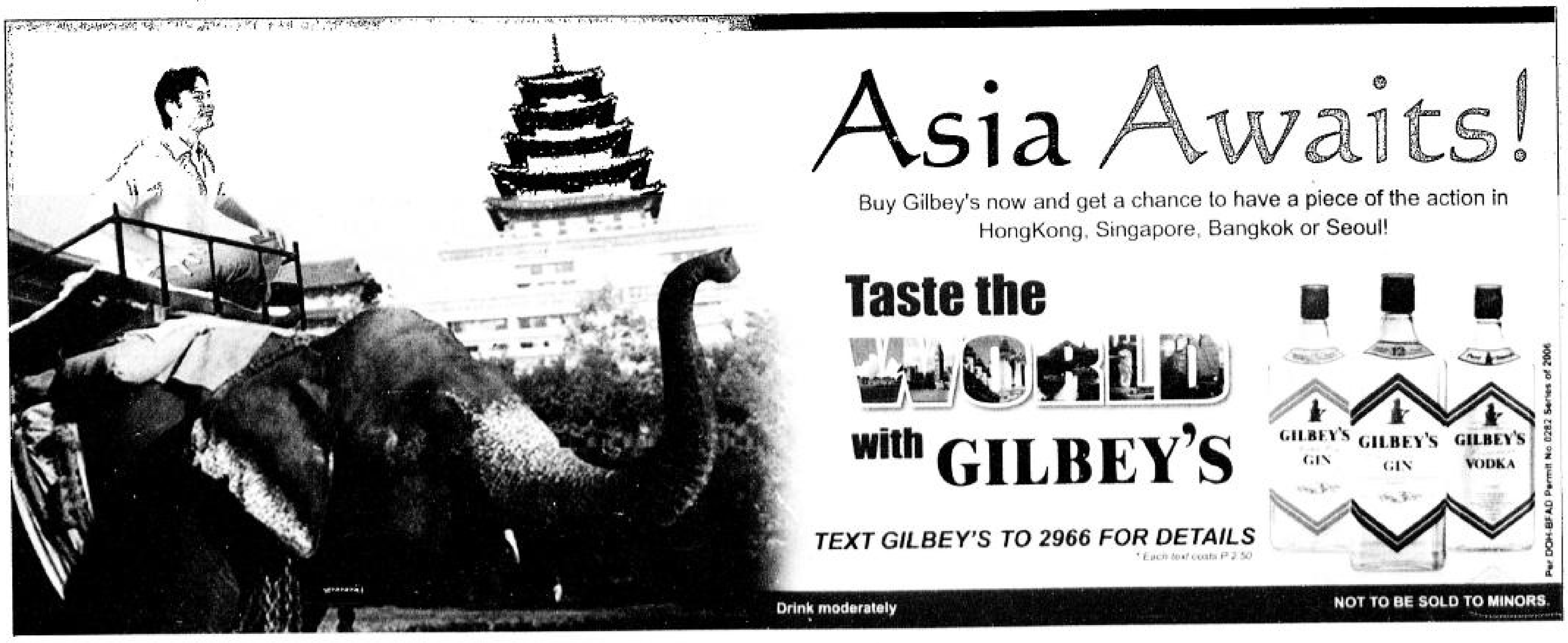
Not surprisingly, James and Bryant get the prime slots this weekend. The Cavaliers open their first postseason since 1998 on Saturday afternoon on national television against the Washington Wizards, and the Lakers have the Sunday afternoon TV game for both their opener at Phoenix and Game 4 back at Staples Center next weekend. AP



FIRST ROUND SCHEDULE OF GAMES

SOLAR SPORTS ▸	Game 1	DENVER	vs	L.A. CLIPPERS	Apr 23	10.30 AM
RPN 9 ▸	Game 1	DENVER	vs	L.A. CLIPPERS	Apr 23	10.30 AM
RPN 9 ▸	Game 1	CHICAGO	vs	MIAMI	Apr 23	9.00 PM
SOLAR SPORTS ▸	Game 1	MEMPHIS	vs	DALLAS	Apr 24	9.30 AM
RPN 9 ▸	Game 1	MILWAUKEE	vs	DETROIT	Apr 24	7.30 PM
SOLAR SPORTS ▸	Game 2	CHICAGO	vs	MIAMI	Apr 25	8.00 AM
SOLAR SPORTS ▸	Game 2	WASHINGTON	vs	CLEVELAND	Apr 26	7.00 AM
SPORTS PLUS	Game 2	SACRAMENTO	vs	SAN ANTONIO	Apr 26	9.30 AM
SPORTS PLUS	Game 2	INDIANA	vs	NEW JERSEY	Apr 26	9.30 PM
RPN 9 ▸	Game 2	WASHINGTON	vs	CLEVELAND	Apr 26	7.00 PM
SOLAR SPORTS ▸	Game 2	MEMPHIS	vs	DALLAS	Apr 27	8.00 AM
SOLAR SPORTS ▸	Game 3	MIAMI	vs	CHICAGO	Apr 28	8.00 AM
SOLAR SPORTS ▸	Game 3	CLEVELAND	vs	WASHINGTON	Apr 29	8.00 AM
SOLAR SPORTS ▸	Game 4	L.A. CLIPPERS	vs	DENVER	Apr 30	10.30 AM
RPN 9 ▸	Game 4	L.A. CLIPPERS	vs	DENVER	Apr 30	10.30 AM
RPN 9 ▸	Game 3	DETROIT	vs	MILWAUKEE	Apr 30	9.00 PM
SOLAR SPORTS ▸	Game 4	CLEVELAND	vs	WASHINGTON	May 01	7.30 PM
RPN 9 ▸	Game 4	SAN ANTONIO	vs	SACRAMENTO	May 01	7.30 PM

* If necessary - Games 5 to 7 (TBA)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By Rito P. Asilo

"Eight Below"

D: Frank Marshall
S: Paul Walker, Bruce Greenwood, Jason Biggs, Moon Bloodgood

A DOG IS A MAN'S BEST FRIEND. BUT, IN Frank Marshall's involving canine-adventure drama, inspired by the true story of a Japanese expedition to the South Pole in 1958, the film's eight loyal canine protagonists suddenly find themselves abandoned by their human masters, led by expedition specialist, Jerry (Paul Walker), and geologist, Dr. Davis McClaren (Bruce Greenwood), when the worst Antarctic storm in 25 years comes crashing into the ice-covered continent.

This happens *after* the cuddly but battle-scarred dogs lead McClaren to recover a fragment of a meteorite from Mercury, save him from falling into a deep crevasse—and from imminent death!

For the next six months, the abandoned canine heroes are left to fend for themselves against hunger, stubborn sea lions and the brutal arctic winter.

Marshall ("Alive") returns to the battle-against-the-elements film genre, and delivers an endearing, feel-good romp and edge-of-your-seat entertainment about survival, and friendship forged between man and beast.

Their human counterparts pass muster, but it's the four-legged protagonists who demonstrate boundless cuteness and "thespic" savvy in the film.

Jerry and Davis repeatedly philosophize: "You have to take chances for the things you care about." Wise words, indeed. But, it's their canine buddies who rise to the occasion and take this old maxim to heart. Sniff.

"Tristan + Isolde"

D: Kevin Reynolds
S: James Franco, Sophia Myles

The tragic, bittersweet romance of Romeo and Juliet takes a refreshing Celtic tweaking in Kevin Reynolds' film about Tristan (played by the dashing and smoldering James Franco) and Isolde (Sophia Myles, who charms and steals hearts effortlessly). They meet and magically match when the latter's left-for-dead body is washed ashore in Ireland in the year 600 A.D. She revives his sagging spirits—and his heart.

Unfortunately, the star-crossed pair isn't aware that their respective fathers are bitter rivals, who fiercely wrestle for power and sovereignty.

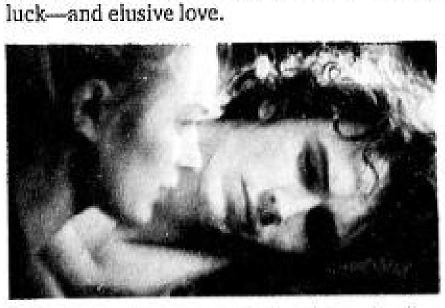
Unlike the stubborn offsprings of the Montagues and Capulets, however, Tristan and Isolde are more mindful of their obligations to family and country. But, sometimes, destiny has a way of weaving magic and mayhem in unknowing mortals—even a lovelorn pair who doesn't defy its will!

"The Cooler"

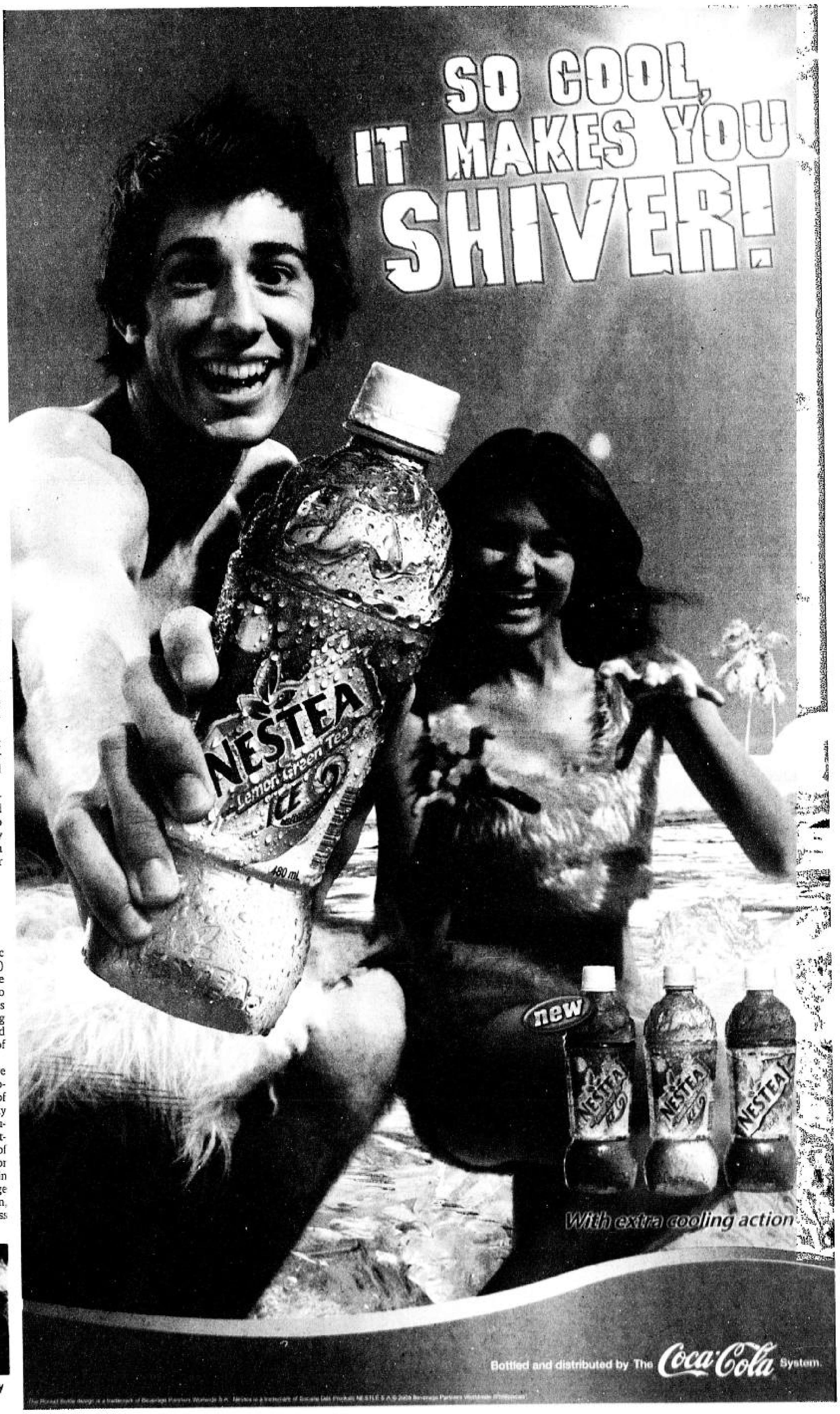
D: Wayne Kramer
S: William H. Macy, Alec Baldwin

In Wayne Kramer's cautionary romantic drama, Bernie Loots' (William H. Macy) string of bad luck comes to an end when he meets and falls in love with Natalie Belisario (Maria Bello). But, one man's "lady luck" is another man's loss, and Las Vegas gambling lord, Shelly Kaplow (the Oscar nominated Alec Baldwin), isn't pleased at the prospect of losing Bernie's unusual "service."

You see, Loots is Shelly's most effective "cooler"—which is gambling jargon for a professional "loser," who makes the rounds of casinos and gambling havens to end a lucky customer's winning streak. Powerful and cautionary, the movie is more than just a cinematic statement about finding love in the dregs of a ruthless society. It's also a showcase for great performances: Macy, Bello and Baldwin (in the scariest role of his career) exchange thespic barbs as their characters dream, scheme and tumble in pursuit of listless luck—and elusive love.



MYLES AND FRANCO. Obligation to family and country takes precedence.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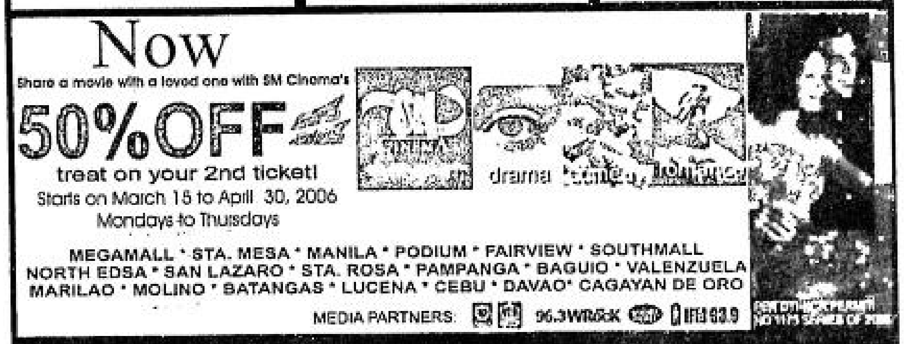
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07:36 / 09:16 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:10 END
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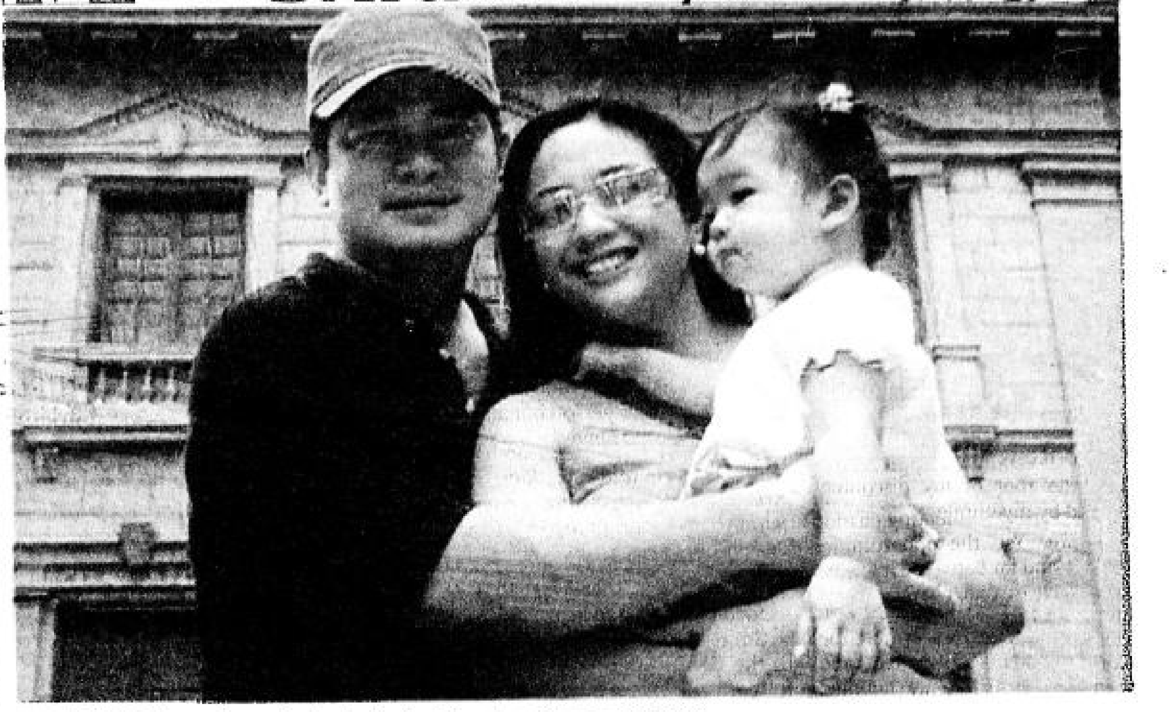

THE BABAOS. Learning to forgive is the first step to embracing the light.

'Miracle' in MACAU

By Christine Bersola-Babao

MORE THAN JUST A vacation, Holy Week is always a time for renewal of faith for me. It is also an opportunity for self-reflection. The past year saw my family weathering trials, especially in terms of career, and I personally longed for momentary escape from the frustrations.

Colony

This year, we spent Holy Week in Macau. My good friend, Arlina Onglao, once invited me and my husband, Julius, to experience a Macau pilgrimage, owing to the many churches in this former Portuguese colony.

It was God's will that again brought us to Macau last Holy Week, where the unexpected happened to me.

We arrived on a Monday evening. Before I slept, I resumed reading the bestseller, "Your Best Life Now" by Joel Osteen. When I flipped the pages at random, it opened to page 143. The chapter's title was: "Letting Go of Emotional Wounds."

These words veritably jumped out of the first page: "You dare not use your past as an excuse for your unwillingness to forgive somebody."

The next page read: "Don't hold on to feelings of bitterness and resentment and let them poison your future. Forgive the people who did you wrong. You will never be truly happy as long as you harbor bitterness in your heart … When you dwell on painful experiences, your emotions will go right back there with you—and you feel the pain in the present."

I was in tears. God was speaking to me through those words. From that moment on, I knew that this wasn't going to be just another Holy Week for me.

Façade

The first thing we did on Holy Tuesday was to visit the Ruins of St. Paul's (the church was built by Jesuits in 1602 and was destroyed by fire in 1835, except for its stone façade).

Behind the ruins was the crypt where the bones of Japan's Christian martyrs lay inside special glass enclosures. A simple cross adorned the top of the boulders. I threw a coin for my own prayer-wish.

We walked to the Church of St. Anthony (Julius and I are devotees, that's why we named our daughter, Antonia). This church stands on the site of a chapel founded in 1558.

Footsteps

On the way to the church I walked with heavy footsteps, but I knew that it was really the unhappiness in my heart that was weighing me down.

You see, it has been half a decade that I've been carrying an emotional burden: There's this person whom I could not forgive for something she did to me—consciously or unconsciously—which altered the course of my career. This person "stole" the opportunity for me to make it big. She caused me so much pain, and I could not get over the experience. My resentment toward her only increased through the years.

Then, I resorted to the "victim" mentality. I wondered why, careerwise, I wasn't being treated fairly, why I was constantly being sidelined. Joel Osteen aptly described what I was going through: In his book he called it

MIRACLE/ A2-3

Shelter

LOTUS POND
R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WE NEED SHELTER from the scorching heat of material existence. Its intense heat brings thirst, weakness, dryness and longing for relief.

Some days are full of happiness, some days distress. They bring so much confusion and frustration.

Jagad Guru Siddhaswarupananda Paramahamsa has an accurate analysis: The best lessons in life are not necessarily learned in the classroom, but in the playground—like riding the seesaw: Sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down. We can't always win.

How do we transcend the duality of life, the ups and downs, the happiness and sadness? Wise men say, "When you are happy, turn to the Supreme Being. When you're sad, turn to the Supreme Friend. When you're healthy, chant His Names. When you're sick, do the same. When things are good, or bad, meditate and remember Him."

Victory

Whether you're up or down, our Friend will always be there. The Bhagavad-gita states, "A saintly person does not revel when he is glorified in victory, and neither does he worry about defeat."

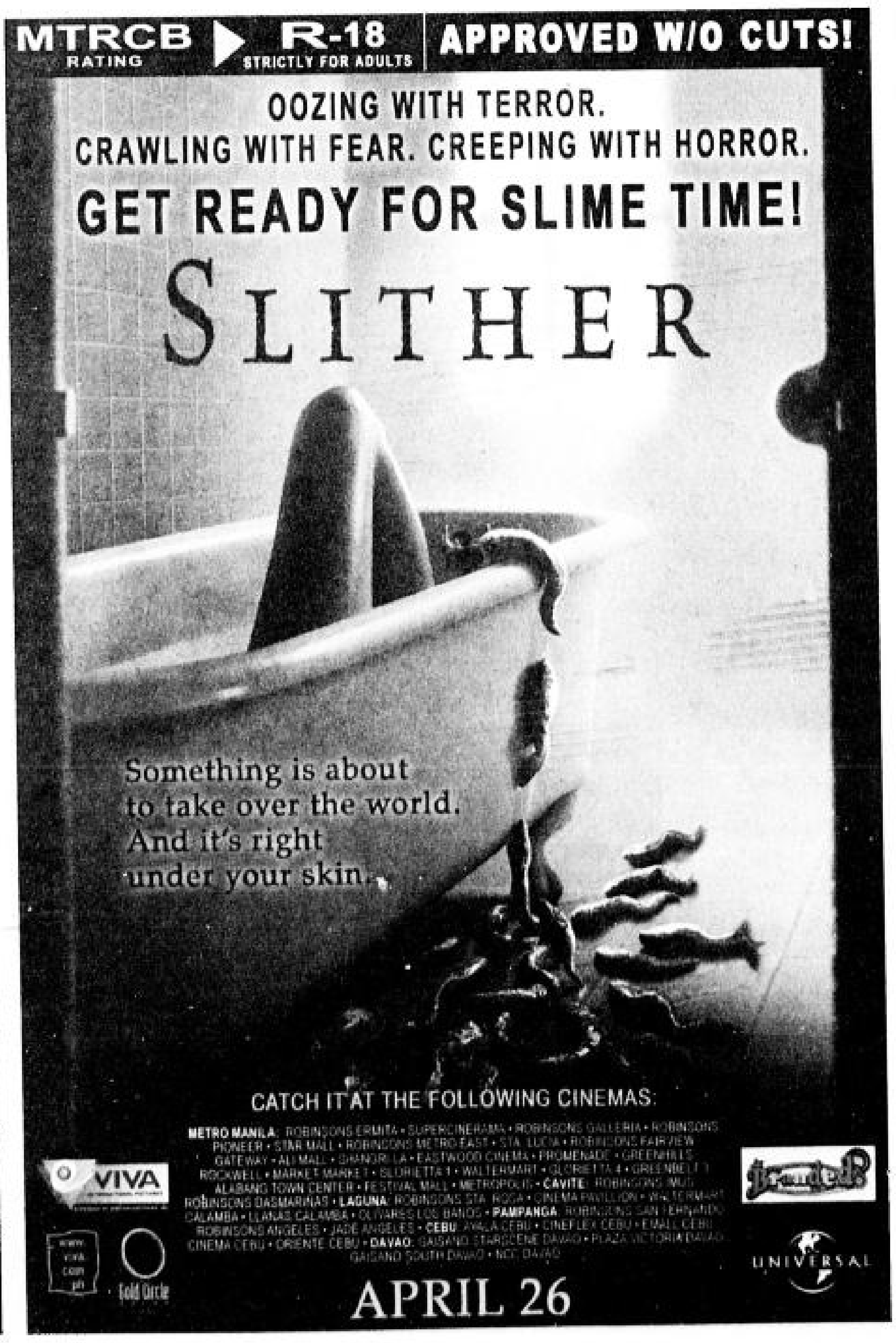
An intelligent person does not focus on success or failure, heat or cold, and the ups and downs of relationships. He stays on a platform that transcends changing situations.

Focus

The mind wants us to focus on things that make us happy or sad—good friends, unfaithful partners, etc. We constantly flow in the stream of material existence.

But, if we hold on to the Supreme Being, we are shown what real existence is—a constant condition that defies change.

Taking shelter in God is like being in the same place while things change around you.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'Miracle' in Macau

From page A2-2

"bitterness taking root."

Was it plain stubbornness for me not to accept the reality that I chose a profession defined by cutthroat competition? That I was simply *not* cut out for this kind of business? Yet, I have managed to survive for 16 years—even without fully understanding the complex dynamics of the game.

Discontent

Is the root of my discontent caused by my unrelenting passion to share? Yet, the opportunities are few and far between. It always goes back to that chapter in my life when I wrestled with the studio system and lost—when the world was almost at my feet, and then, the doors suddenly slammed shut. I attributed this to the series of unfortunate circumstances brought about by this person whom I was unwilling to forgive.

Then, an insightful statement on page 160 of Joel Osteen's book hit me: "When we hold on to poison from our past, we only hurt ourselves. We need to forgive, so we can be free."

Time to move on

I was crying when Julius told me that it was, indeed, time to move on—that it was time to forgive not only that person but also two of my close friends, who betrayed me. He told me: "*Kung si Kristo nga nagawang magpatawad ng lahat ng tao sa mundo, ano pa kaya 'yung sa iyo na tatlong tao lang?*"

That was it. That was all I needed to read—and hear.

Going back to my long walk to the Church of St. Anthony, I felt the weight in my heart, because the thorns were still there. In my mind, I was already trying to discard the past. But, I knew it had to take a lot of will power to pull out the thorns.

Darkest moments

But, you know how God makes you see the light in your darkest moments? As I was approaching the church, I reminded myself of the belief that when it is your first time to visit a church, you say a prayer or make a wish as you enter its doors.

The moment I stepped in, I closed my eyes, held my breath and prayed: "Lord, *please*, help me to forgive her. I want to move on..." And, almost instantly, it was as if a ray of light passed through my body. I knew that it was God's answer to my prayer. The time has come to forgive.

Candle

Inside the church, I lit a candle and continued to pray to the Lord and to St. Anthony. I asked forgiveness for succumbing to human frailty—pride was my weakness. I asked the Lord for more time to heal my wounds. I thanked Him for helping me take the first step in the healing process. The wounds are still there, but in time, they, too, will heal.

TINTIN (WITH DAUGHTER, ANTONIA). No true happiness with bitterness in your heart.

Such was the personal "miracle" I experienced in Macau.

I was embraced by the Light when I took the first step to forgive!

(Contact Arlina at joinjourneys@gmail.com or email me at christinebabao@gmail.com.

Rita...

From page A2-4

talk about filmdom's sex sirens. I never comprehended what their qualities were, however. For example, they said Theda Bara was one. I wondered why someone who looked like *that* was considered desirable. To my young mind, Mae West looked fat, old and rather grotesque!

Gloria Swanson looked funny and overly made-up. I realized that Rita Hayworth was deemed sexy, but the audience called her names when she appeared on the screen. Instead, I appreciated Ingrid Bergman in "St. Joan" because she looked ethereal.

So, what was considered sexy then? Greta Garbo was appreciated by older men, but I found her thin, angular and cold. I appreciated girl-next-door types like June Allyson and Ann Blyth. I was also taken by the androgynous mermaid, Esther Williams.

Contrast

I didn't understand what "sex siren" meant, because Hollywood standards often seemed in direct contrast to Philippine values. If these blondes and sex sirens were really so desirable, how come the Iloilo audience called them names when they appeared on the screen? I sometimes expected these much-maligned women to answer back!

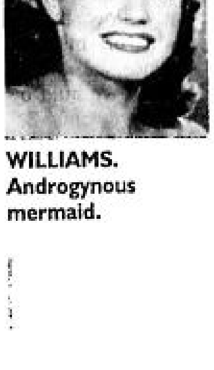
When I reached my teens, I came to know other sex symbols. In Philippine cinema, there were men-grabbers like Carol Varga and Rosa Rosal. I wondered why critics sang their praises, while moviegoers booed them. Men whistled when they entered a scene, but women frowned at them.

Rosa was followed by the likes of Zeny Zabala and Bella Flores, both of whom played stereotypical social-climbing gold-diggers.

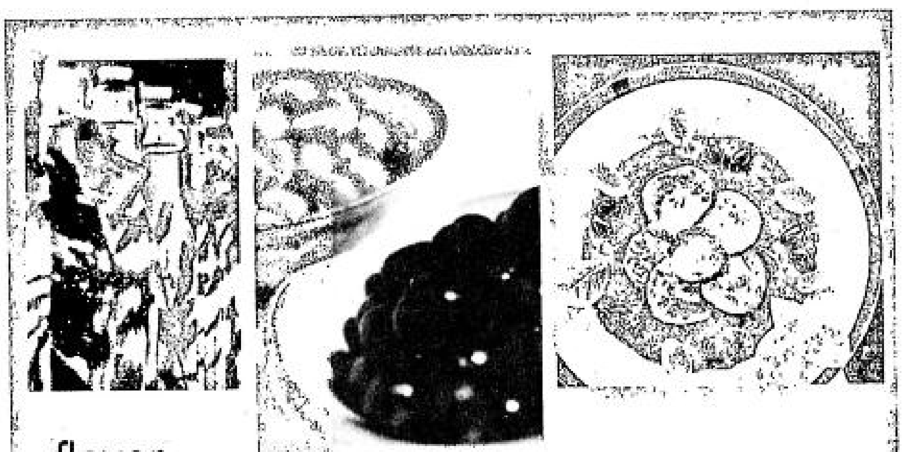
Why, they were everything a woman should *not* be, but they had sexy bodies, ambition and the come-hither looks! Usually, their eyebrows were painted, arched and oh-so-prominent.

Antitheses

If the local antitheses of these vixens were pretty lasses like Mila del Sol, Norma Blancaflor and Gloria Romero, Hollywood soon saw the blooming of such glorious teenage beauties like Ann Blyth and Elizabeth Taylor. Beside Ann, Joan Evans looked peaked and painted, indeed!



WILLIAMS. Androgynous mermaid.



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Rita Hayworth, other sex symbols exuded stellar sass and class

By Behn Cervantes

I BECAME A MOVIE fan early in my life. Since television had yet to become part of our household entertainment, the family would all get into the car every night right after dinner.

Back seat

The car had a rumble seat, just like the vehicles in the movies of Mickey Rooney. In the back seat, Mickey and Judy Garland would moon and croon, while I joined my parents and siblings in watching movies—whatever they were!

The family had been given a "family pass" by *Don* Teodoro Benedicto to Eagle Theater, where MGM musicals and epics were shown. To boot, the movies played for only two to three days, so between the offerings of Main, Palace and Eagle, we went to the movies practically *every* night!

My elder sister, Rachel, would explain the movies to me if they were adult in theme. Since I was treated like an adult, I got the proper answers. So, when the lights were turned on after a showing of "Forever Amber," most of the audience at Palace Theater wondered why a second grader was witness to this "condemned" film, as the prudes labeled the Cornel Wilde and Linda Darnell starrer.

Questionable

The questionable scene took place inside a carriage. I knew what they were doing—although not in exact detail then.

HAYWORTH. Audience called her names when she appeared on the screen.

But, I wasn't allowed to see "Outlaw," the controversial Howard Hughes opus that featured Jane Russell.

I often heard adults in the family

RITA/ A2-3

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EVERY MONDAY APRIL 27,28, 29, 2006 TEATRINO DANCE NIGHT WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" FOR INQUIRIES CALL 722-4532 LOC. 118 7:00PM 9:00PM
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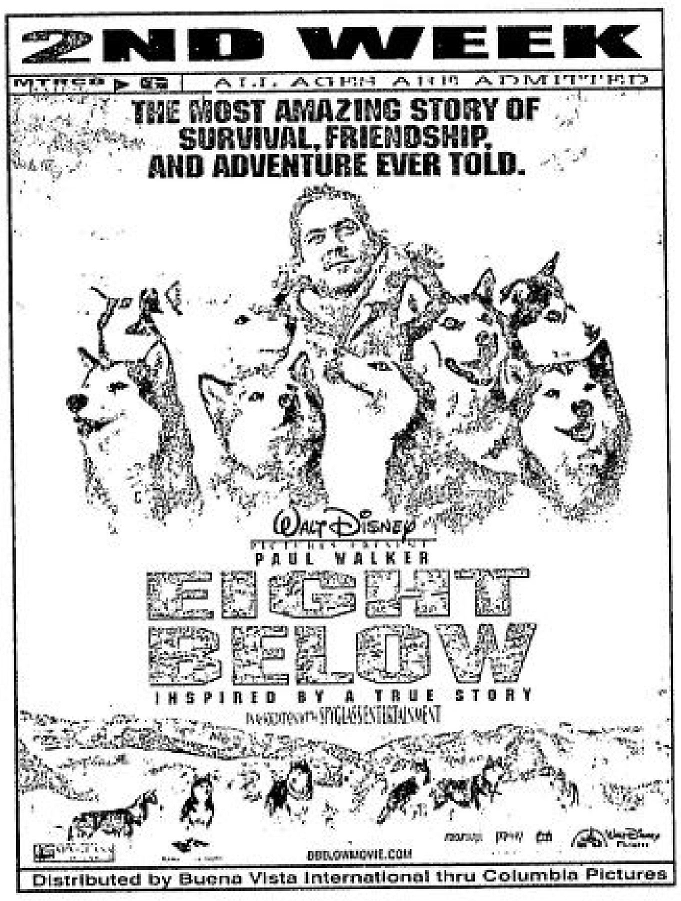

2ND WEEK
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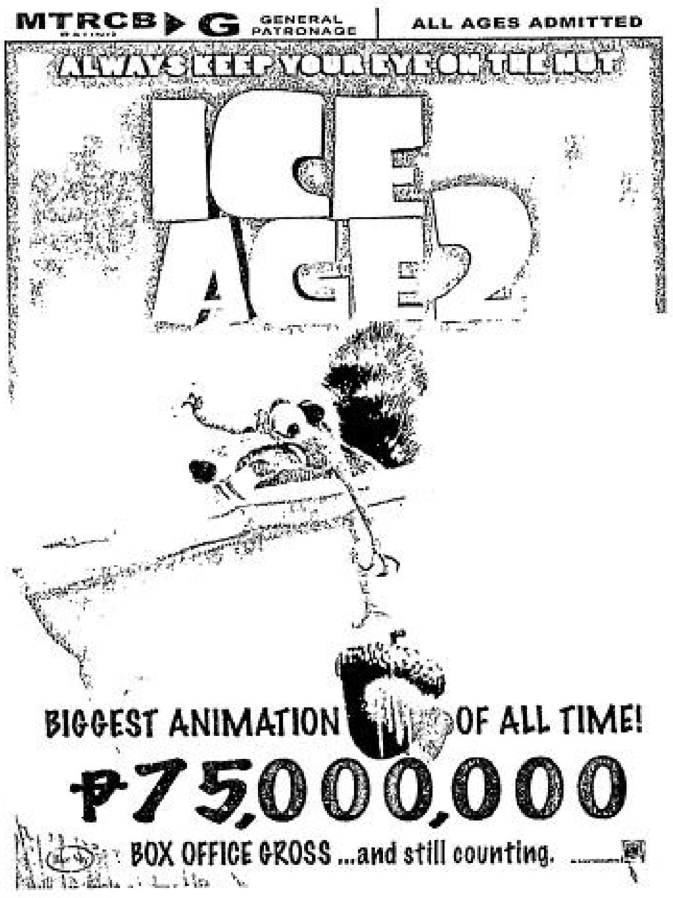

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MAKIKITA N'YO ANG MAKIKITA N'YO!
Paolo Contis
Dennis Trillo and Iya Villania
Marian Rivera
Naniniwala ka ba?
Pamahiin
Directed by Rahyan Carlos
with special participation of Ms. Jaclyn Jose
also starring Vangie Labalan Chris Daluz Kookoo Gonzales Erica Dehesa JM Reyes
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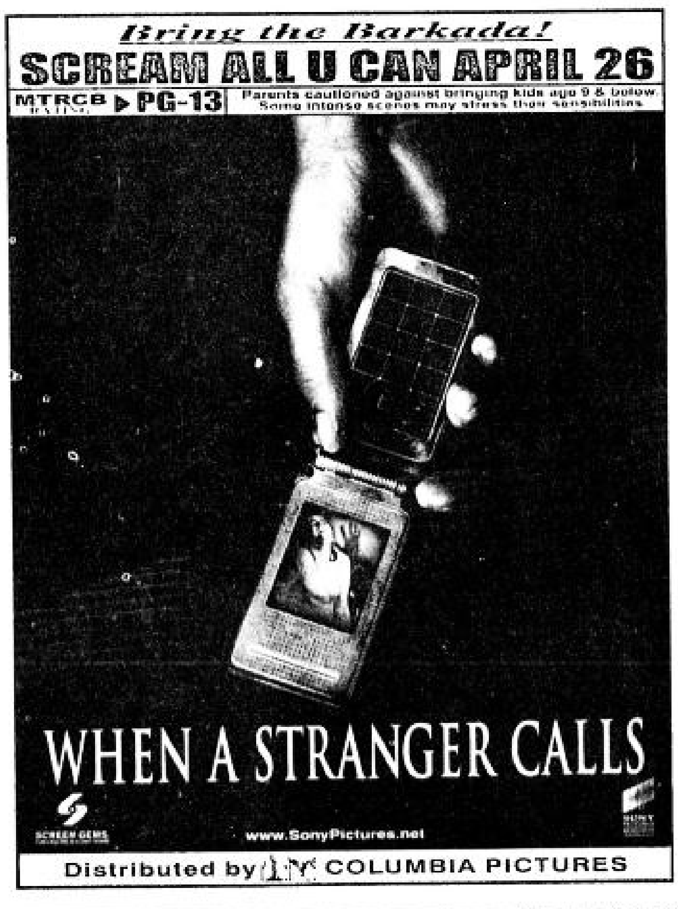
www.regalfilms.com/pamahiin
MTRCB RATING PG-13
"The effects are outstanding. Very effective!" - Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, National Artist for Literature
"This signifies the birth of a new horror director here in the Philippines." - Philip Cu-Unjieng, Philippine Star columnist & Marketing Director of ABS-CBN Publishing
"Dennis Trillo gives a stellar performance and Jaclyn Jose arrives later in the film to give her most subtly creepy performance yet." - Quark Henares, award-winning director
"It's a quality film from Regal Entertainment and Rahyan Carlos. Congratulations!" - Wilma Galvante, Senior Vice President of Entertainment TV Group GMA Network, Inc.
RATED B BY THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD



Bring the Barkada!
SCREAM ALL U CAN APRIL 26
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Parents cautioned against bringing kids age 9 & below. Some intense scenes may stress their sensibilities.
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
SCREEN GEMS
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Attention! Video Shop owners & Video collectors Get Your Copy on April 24 Exclusively on Video!
The right man, the right woman, the wrong time
dot the i
danger is in details.
Carmen (Natalia Verbeke), a beautiful Spanish woman is about to be married to Barnaby (James D'Arcy), a caring, wealthy, but slightly boring Englishman. While out with friends on her "girls night out", she encounters a stranger who suddenly sparks a passion that has been sleeping within her. As her wedding date approaches, she finds herself struggling to put this newcomer out of her mind, but his effect on her keeps growing stronger.
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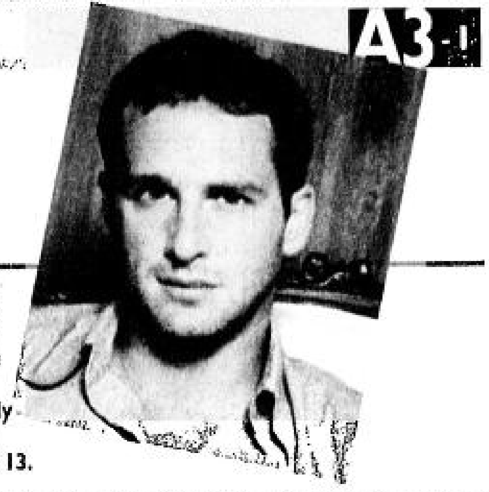
SATURDAY Special

Josh Lucas revs up box-office clout



LUCAS. His family moved 30 times before he turned 13.

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

JOSH LUCAS MADE WOMEN SWOON WHEN he figured in a three-way romance with Reese Witherspoon and Patrick Dempsey in "Sweet Home Alabama." Men cheered him on in the recent No. 1 box-office hit, "Glory Road."

This week, we interviewed the dashing actor about his latest film, "Poseidon," his unusual artistic choices, his co-stars, and the theater. It took Josh a couple of questions to hit his stride, but when we started talking about the theater (he shared stellar billing with Jessica Lange and Christian Slater in last year's Broadway staging of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie"), he warmed up. Soon, he was cracking jokes and anecdotes about his colorful career:

What drew you to "Poseidon"? Didn't you find it risky to get involved in a movie that would naturally be compared to James Cameron's "Titanic"?

It was an initial concern. But, what drew me to the film was director Wolfgang Petersen ("The Perfect Storm," "Das Boot"), who told me he didn't want to do a remake of the 1972 movie. He said, "I want it to be the most intense and claustrophobic film I've ever made!" When you have a master filmmaker telling you that, it's very easy to give in.

Reluctant hero

And I like how the roles are written: My character is a card shark, a hustler, and a reluctant hero. The characters are varied and unconventional.

Your films range from box-office-friendly rom-coms ("Sweet Home Alabama"), dark dramas ("The Deep End") to action ("Stealth"). You even played a villain in "Hulk." I heard that, as director, Petersen runs a "tight but relaxed" ship. Was it the same experience with Ron Howard ("A Beautiful Mind" and Ang Lee ("Hulk")?

What fascinates me about this job is the movies' ability to transform and mold perceptions, to bring people to the theater expecting one thing and getting something else.

Substantial

One of the few things that's great about fame is its power to get small but substantial films made—like "Wonderland" or, my personal favorite, "Undertow."

Great directors have two common denominators: One, they are collaborative. They like other people's opinions. Second, they are wildly passionate and obsessive about what they do.

Wolfgang does run a tight ship, but he is so lovely in the way he operates his tight ship. He's very much like a grandfatherly child, you work harder because you like him so much!

For his part, Ang Lee is brilliantly creative—a most soulful, lovely person. Working with him was like working with Buddha.

Ron Howard, on the other hand, is just like what you'd imagine a man-child would be. Yet, he totally knows what he's doing. He knows how to direct actors *and* to string interesting

JOSH/ A3-4

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Monday (Manila-Odiongan)
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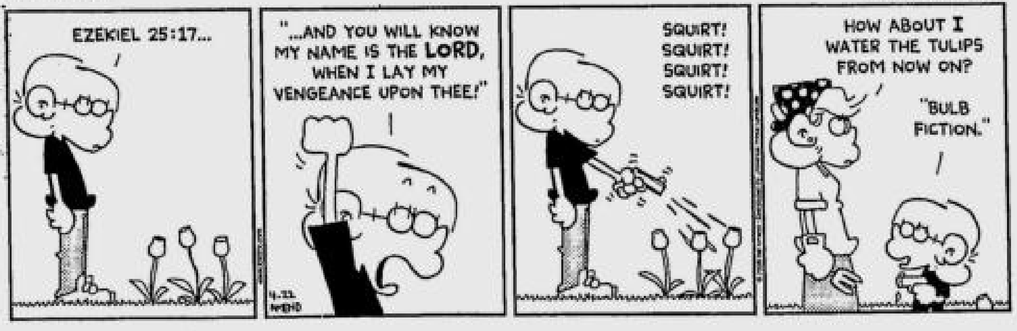
Tawag na: 528-7000

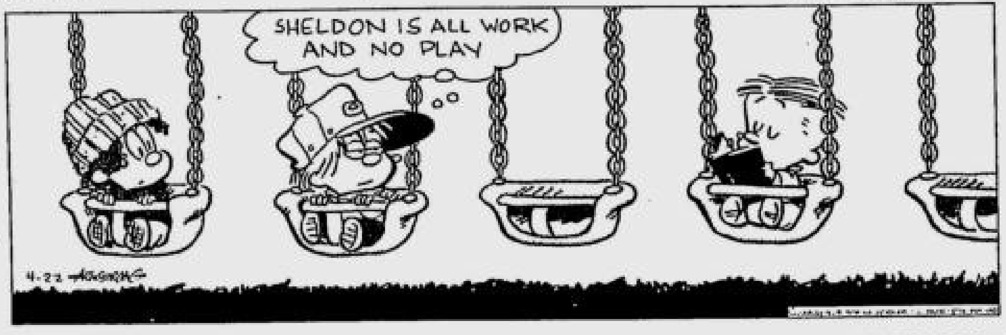
P800 lang!

Maki-Fiesta na sa Looc, Romblon!
April 24-26, 2006
SuperFerry

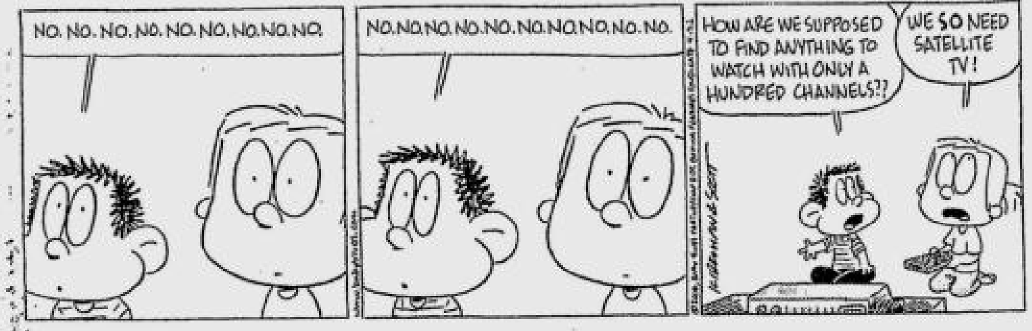
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


EZEKIEL 25:17...
"...AND YOU WILL KNOW MY NAME IS THE LORD, WHEN I LAY MY VENGEANCE UPON THEE!"
SQUIRT! SQUIRT! SQUIRT! SQUIRT!
HOW ABOUT I WATER THE TULIPS FROM NOW ON?
"BULB FICTION."
4-22 AMEND

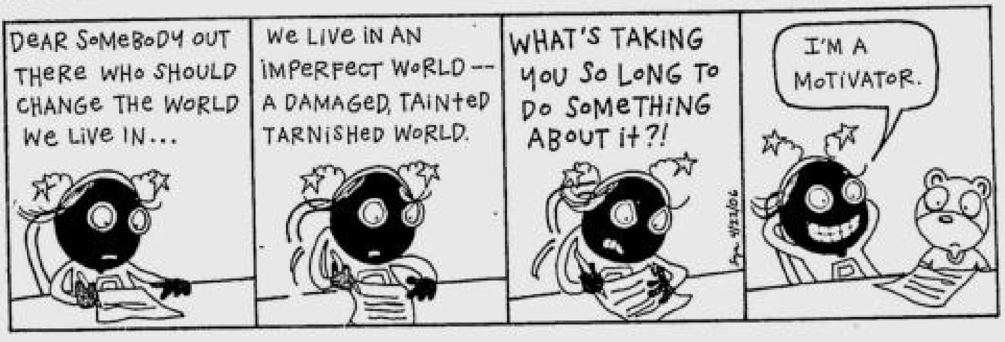
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SHELDON IS ALL WORK AND NO PLAY
4-22 ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO.
NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. NO.
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND ANYTHING TO WATCH WITH ONLY A HUNDRED CHANNELS?!
WE SO NEED SATELLITE TV!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DEAR SOMEBODY OUT THERE WHO SHOULD CHANGE THE WORLD WE LIVE IN...
WE LIVE IN AN IMPERFECT WORLD -- A DAMAGED, TAINTED TARNISHED WORLD.
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?!
I'M A MOTIVATOR.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have uncanny financial skills. Even though you enjoy the good life, your demands are actually modest. You're a charming, clever conversationalist and a natural leader. You want to achieve your goals, but you're sensitive to the demands of others. Your cavalier wit hides your practical nature. Increased solitude will allow you to learn something important and valuable this year.
Birthdate of: Glen Campbell, musician; John Waters, director; Jack Nicholson, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A conversation with a female friend might be significant today. Someone might need to cry on your shoulder, or vice versa. Be prepared to offer sympathy and understanding.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): No matter how briefly—something will happen today that puts you in the public eye. People will notice you. (Hopefully, it's for something you like!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Visit bookstores, museums, galleries or beautiful parks. Your appreciation of beauty is heightened today. You want to learn something new and different. Remember—you're always curious!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Talk to others about shared responsibilities or jointly held property today. You will find it easy to reach an agreement or consensus with others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Try to go more than halfway when dealing with others today. You're going to have to do this simply because the Moon is opposite your sign. Seek out cooperation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Work to get better organized on the job or at home. You feel better when you are more in control of your surroundings. You appreciate order.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Fun, flirtations and playful activities are promising today. Someone might send you a love note or a little gift of appreciation. (You are loved.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with a parent or a family member are significant today. Don't be rushed. Take time to give someone your full attention. (It's only respectful.)

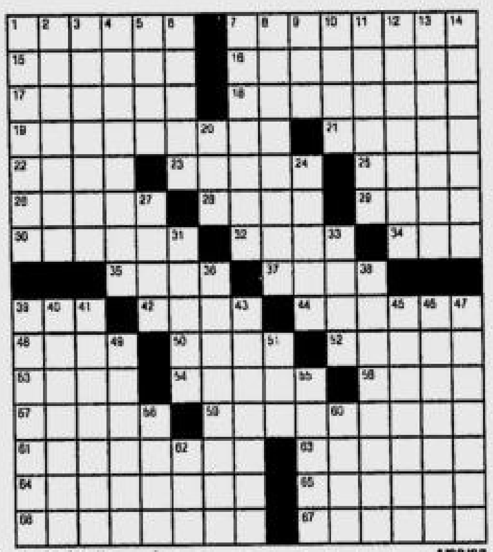
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Difficulties with siblings have occurred in recent years for your sign. You might want to think about patching up differences. (It's a wholesome approach.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Stay on top of your money scene today. This is not a good day to make purchases or buy things (other than food). Just look; don't spend your money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a lovely, social, carefree day. It's not a good day for important decisions; however, it's a great day to have fun and enjoy the company of others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You need some peace and quiet today. Hide from others if you can. Why not do the crossword in this paper? (Perhaps you prefer Sudoku.) Then again, you might want to read a book or watch a movie.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Broward
Scranton, PA
4/22/06

ACROSS
1 Know-how
7 Checks the flow of
15 Corrida celeb
16 Tree specialist
17 Source
18 Produce anew
19 Old-time communication
21 Confused mingling
22 Alternatives to lagers
23 Man of La Mancha
25 Coarse seaweed
26 Prose romances
28 Crooner Jerry
29 Mark-down event
30 Regard highly
32 Dollar value
34 Coop denizen
35 "A time to __, a time to sow..."
37 Line of stitches
39 "48 Hours" network
42 Open-handed blow
44 Finish
48 Jalopy
50 Golf course hazard
52 Maine college town
53 Border
54 Abraham's wife
56 Teheran's place
57 Sends forth
59 Ralph Macchio movie
61 Covered with skin art
63 Quit working
64 Audience member
65 "A Doll's House" star Janet
66 Listening devices
67 Pottery pieces

DOWN
1 Silo's purpose
2 Swimmer Pablo
3 Maximally dry
4 Official recording
5 Middle of a minuet
6 Musical compositions
7 New York resort lake
8 Vibrating musical effects
9 Opening letters
10 Comic Crosby
11 River feeders
12 Racetrack near Miami
13 Getty or Parsons
14 Trend upward
20 New Testament bk.
24 Stitch again
27 Envisions
31 Barley sprouts
33 Poi source
36 Feathered pet
38 Georgia or Ohio city
39 Fastest land animal
40 Sleeping partner
41 Constellation near Aquila
43 Marches
45 More piglike
46 Not yet broadcast
47 Mulls over
49 Stroked lightly
51 __ for the course
55 Out of __ way
58 Miller play, "All My __"
60 Software support
62 Work by Pindar

Friday's Puzzle Solved

I	N	C	A	■	S	O	R	T	S	■	D	A	T	A
R	E	A	D	■	T	W	E	A	K	■	I	R	I	S
A	N	N	E	■	E	N	N	U	I	■	T	E	N	T
N	E	D	■	S	W	E	E	T	P	O	T	A	T	O
■	■	Y	A	W	E	D	■	■	O	D	O	■	■	■
G	R	A	V	I	D	■	C	O	L	O	S	S	A	L
R	E	P	O	T	■	B	L	U	E	R	■	U	F	O
E	S	P	N	■	G	R	A	S	S	■	T	G	I	F
E	E	L	■	S	L	A	N	T	■	C	H	A	R	T
T	W	E	E	T	I	N	G	■	S	H	A	R	E	S
■	■	■	J	A	B	■	■	O	N	E	N	D	■	■
H	O	N	E	Y	B	A	D	G	E	R	■	A	L	S
E	R	I	C	■	E	V	A	D	E	■	O	D	A	Y
R	A	N	T	■	S	E	D	E	R	■	O	D	I	N
O	N	E	S	■	T	R	A	N	S	■	E	Y	R	E

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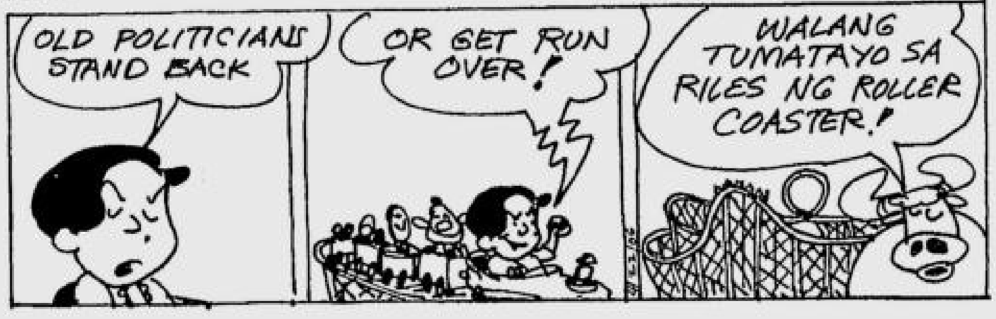
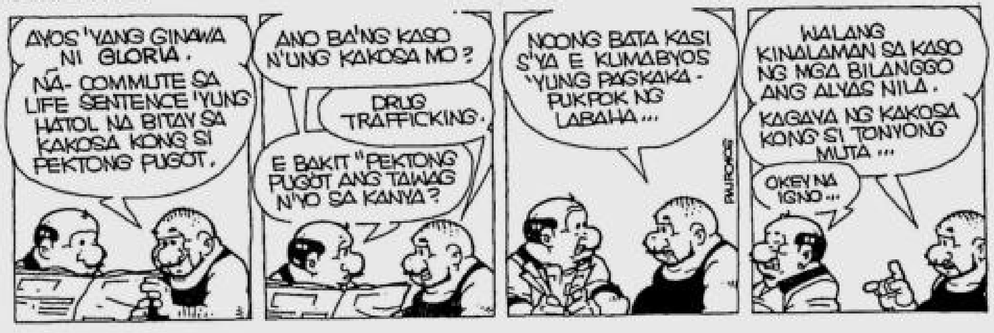
4/22/06

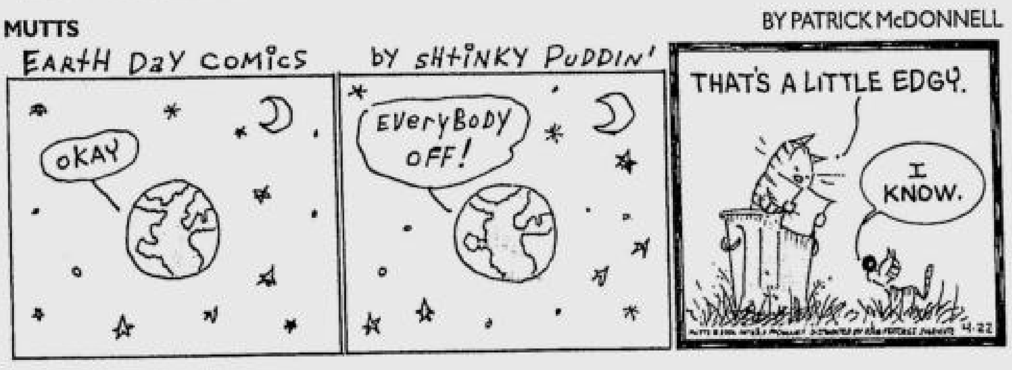
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


OLD POLITICIANS STAND BACK
OR GET RUN OVER!
WALANG TUMATAYO SA RILES NG ROLLER COASTER!

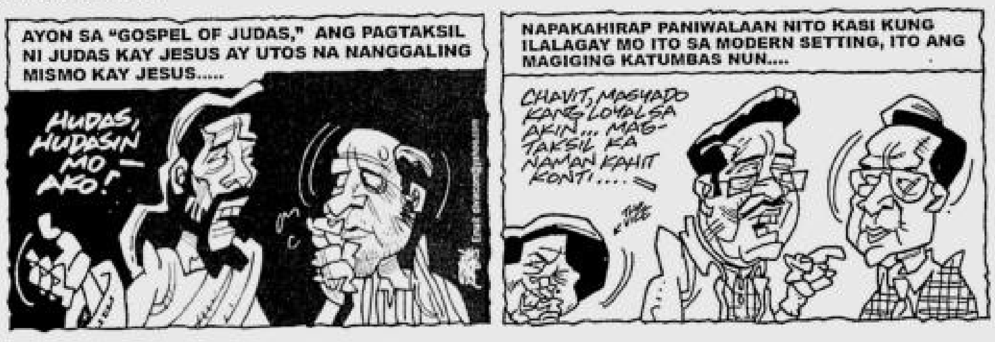
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


AYOS 'YANG GINAWA NI GLORIA. NA-COMMUTE SA LIFE SENTENCE 'YUNG HATOL NA BITAY SA KAKOSA KONG SI PEKTONG PUGOT.
ANO BA'NG KASO N'UNG KAKOSA MO?
DRUG TRAFFICKING.
E BAKIT "PEKTONG PUGOT" ANG TAWAG N'YO SA KANYA?
NOONG BATA KASI S'YA E KUMABYOS 'YUNG PAGKAKA-PUKPOK NG LABAHA...
PMJUNIOR
WALANG KINALAMAN SA KASO NG MGA BILANGGO ANG ALYAS NILA. KAGAYA NG KAKOSA KONG SI TONYONG MUTA...
OKEY NA IGNO...

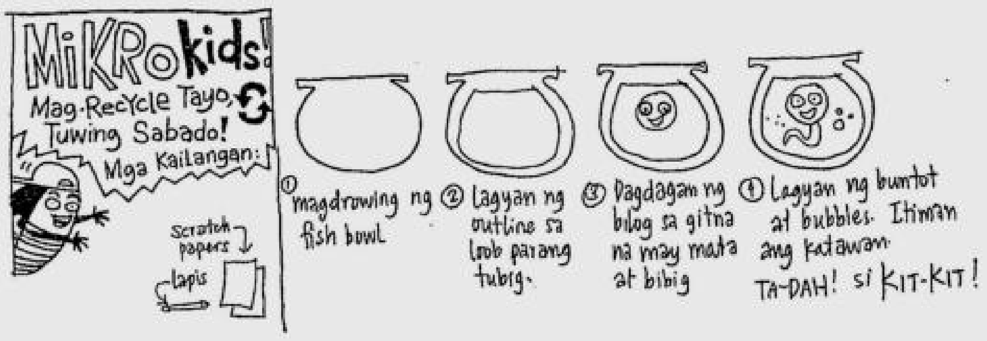
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARTH DAY COMICS by SHTINKY PUDDIN'
OKAY
EVERYBODY OFF!
THAT'S A LITTLE EDGY.
I KNOW.
4-22

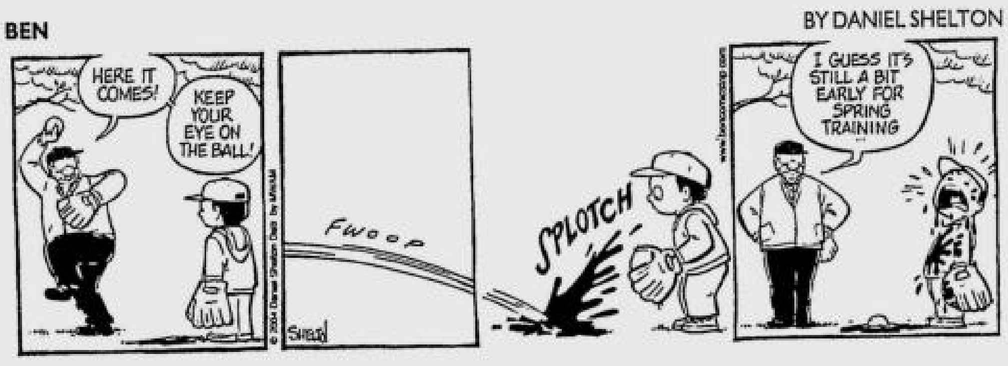
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AYON SA "GOSPEL OF JUDAS," ANG PAGTAKSIL NI JUDAS KAY JESUS AY UTOS NA NANGGALING MISMO KAY JESUS.....
HUDAS, HUDASIN MO AKO!
NAPAKAHIRAP PANIWALAAN NITO KASI KUNG ILALAGAY MO ITO SA MODERN SETTING, ITO ANG MAGIGING KATUMBAS NUN....
CHAVIT, MASYADO KANG LOYAL SA AKIN... MAG-TAKSIL KA NAMAN KAHIT KONTI....

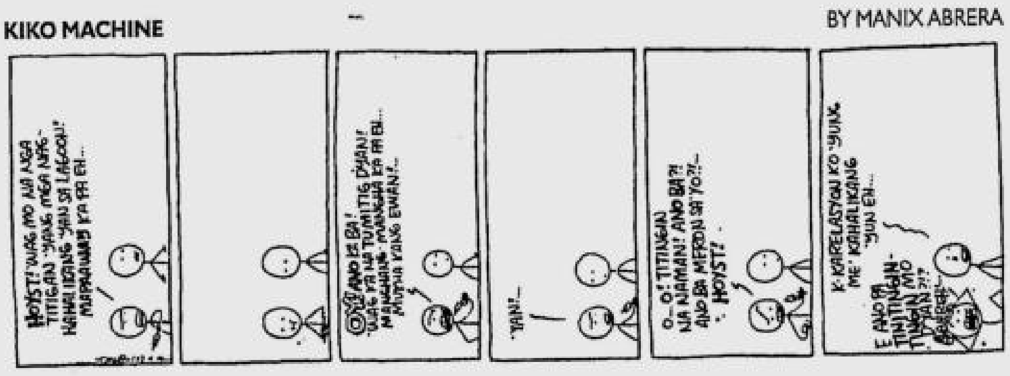
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo kids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
Scratch papers
lapis
① magdrowing ng fish bowl
② Lagyan ng outline sa loob parang tubig.
③ Dagdagan ng bilog sa gitna na may mata at bibig
④ Lagyan ng buntot at bubbles. Itiman ang katawan
TA-DAH! si KIT-KIT!

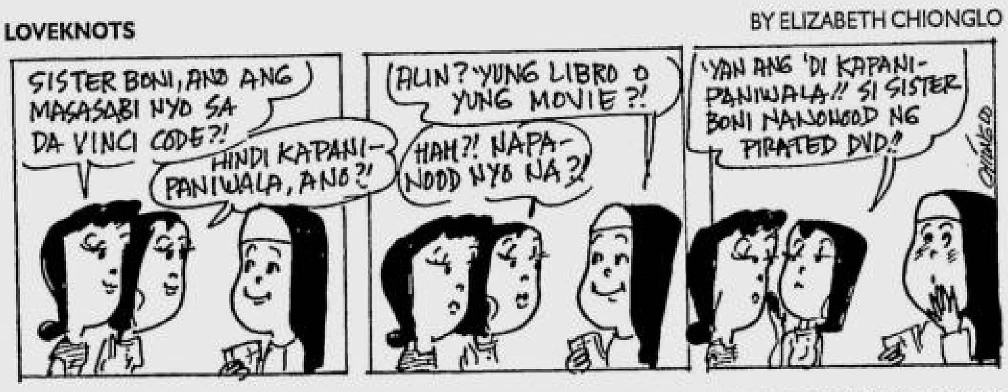
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE IT COMES!
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!
FWOOP
SPLOTCH
I GUESS IT'S STILL A BIT EARLY FOR SPRING TRAINING
SHELTON

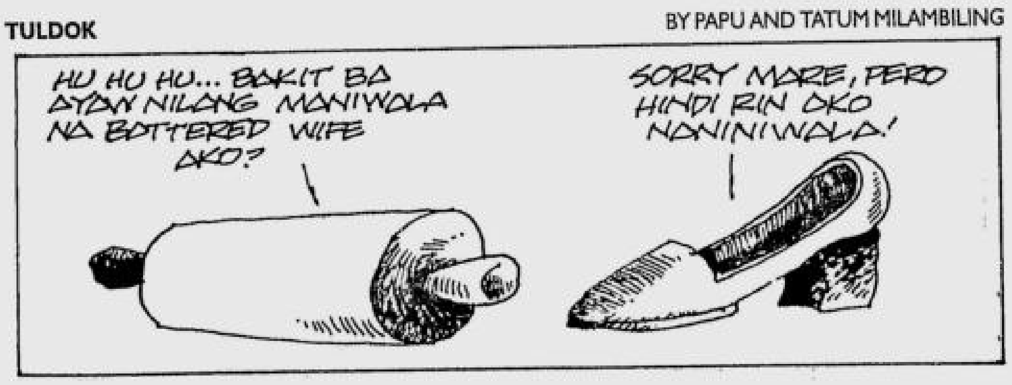
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI, ANO ANG MASASABI NYO SA DA VINCI CODE?!
HINDI KAPANI-PANIWALA, ANO?!
ALIN? 'YUNG LIBRO O YUNG MOVIE?!
HAH?! NAPA-NOOD NYO NA?!
'YAN ANG 'DI KAPANI-PANIWALA!! SI SISTER BONI NANONOOD NG PIRATED DVD!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HU HU HU... BAKIT BA AYAW NILANG MANIWALA NA BATTERED WIFE AKO?
SORRY MARE, PERO HINDI RIN AKO NANINIWALA!

Four new stars make their mark on the big screen

By Nestor U. Torre

FRESH FROM HIS PERformance as the naughty Simon in "Nanny McPhee," child actor Thomas Sangster is appearing anew in the current romantic-action epic, "Tristan & Isolde." He plays the young Tristan (James Franco is his grown-up counterpart).

Thomas' acting debut was in the BBC film, "The Adventures of Station Jim." He followed up with a lead role in the showtime original film, "Bobbie's Girl," and "The Miracle of the Cards." He then appeared in "Stig of the Dump" and in the action telefeature, "Daddy," where he won the best actor in a mini-series award at the 2003 Monte Carlo Film Festival.

Nomination

Thomas' first international feature film was "Love Actually," in which he played Liam Neeson's son. His performance garnered a Satellite Award nomination for best supporting actor.

For her part, Camilla Belle is currently starring as a babysitter-in-distress in "When A Stranger Calls."

Director Simon West picked Camilla for the role over many young actresses because "she has this rare innocent quality that a lot of teenagers today don't have anymore, because they grow up too fast."

Camilla found the role very challenging. She observes, 'Jill is a very strong character and carries the film on her own. She goes on a very emotional journey—she has to save not just herself, but also the children put in her charge. It's a real survival story!"

On the TV screen, Nick Cannon is best known for being the producer and star of his own sketch-comedy variety show, "The Nick Cannon Show," on Nickelodeon. He's won the Nickelodeon Kid's Choice Award for favorite male TV actor.

Breakout hit

On the big screen, Nick's credits include "Monster House," "Shall We Dance?," and his breakout hit, "Drumline." His new film is the Miramax comedy, "Underclassmen," which he also wrote and executive-produced.

He plays a cocky cop who is sent undercover as a student to investigate a murder on campus. What ensues is pure mayhem, where upholding the law means disturbing the peace!

Like Nick, Emmy Rossum isn't a tyro at movie acting, having won the plum ingenue role of Christine in the film version of the hit musical, "Phantom of the Opera."

Proving that she isn't a one-film fluke, Emily has quickly scored her follow-up assignment in the action-adventure film, "Poseidon."

In the film, a luxury cruise ship capsizes and a small group of survivors find themselves unlikely allies in a battle for their lives. Emily plays the headstrong daughter of a former mayor of New York City (Kurt Russell).

Courage and stamina

Shooting the survival movie tested Emily's courage and stamina, due to the production's daunting physical requirements, like "swimming 20 feet underwater in a tight corridor, or being sling-shot across a three-story drop with just a harness." But, Emily passed those physical tests with flying colors!

SANGSTER, ROSSUM AND BELLE. Topbill "Tristan & Isolde," "Poseidon" and "When A Stranger Calls," respectively.

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Cinema	Screen	Film	Schedule
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1	D' LUCKY ONES	
	2	EIGHT BELOW	
	3	PAMAHIIN	
	4	SUBMERGED	
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	
	2	D' LUCKY ONES	
	3 THX	TRISTAN & ISOLDE	12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	SUBMERGED	
	5	JUST FRIENDS	
	6	EIGHT BELOW	
	7	PAMAHIIN	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	EIGHT BELOW	
	2	ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	EIGHT BELOW	1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	THE HILLS HAVE EYES	1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	RENT	1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	TRISTAN & ISOLDE	1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	EIGHT BELOW	
	2	D' LUCKY ONES	
	3	ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	
	4	PAMAHIIN	
	5	TRISTAN & ISOLDE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	EIGHT BELOW	
	2	TRISTAN & ISOLDE	
	3	SHE'S THE MAN	
	4	D' LUCKY ONES	
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1	D' LUCKY ONES	
	2	SUBMERGED	
	3	PAMAHIIN	
	4	EIGHT BELOW	
	5	ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	

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GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Fashion TV Model School April 22, 2006	Cartoon Network Summer Camp April 22, 2006

GREENBELT
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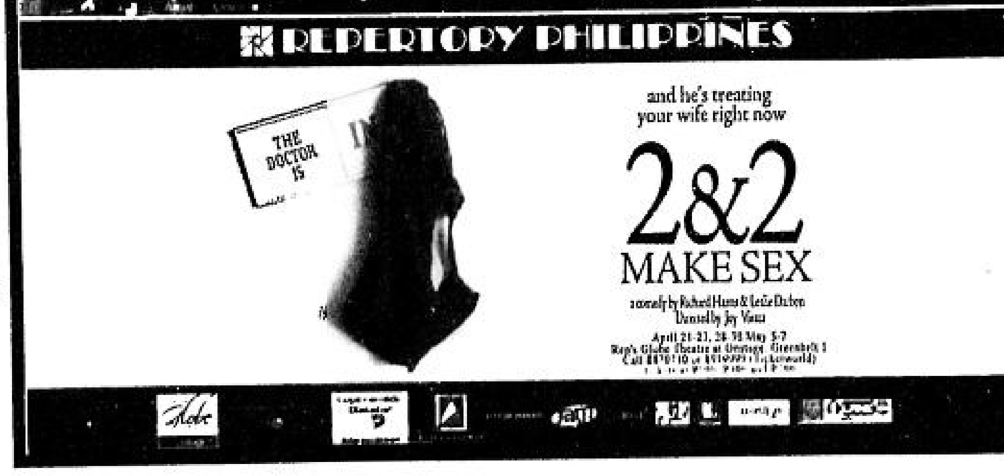

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Catherine Zeta-Jones hams it up on 'SNL'

By Noelani Torre

MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH IS NO easy feat, and the fact that "Saturday Night Live" has been running for 31 years now must mean that they're doing something right.

Still, even a highly esteemed Emmy Award-winning television institution like "SNL" missteps once in a while, and the show has been getting more than its usual share of criticism in the past few years.

Process

Things seem to be getting better now that the show is well into its 31st season. Though some of the jokes and sketches may fall flat, you'd still prefer them to the juvenile schlock that passes for comedy on our own local TV screens. At least with "SNL," you know that thought is put into the process.

Breakthrough band

One of the season's better episodes thus far has been the one hosted by Catherine Zeta-Jones. It also featured the Scottish breakthrough band, Franz Ferdinand.

The show has more hits than misses. It helps that Zeta-Jones is an accomplished dancer and singer, and that the platinum-selling Franz Ferdinand is one of today's hottest bands.

The cold opening in this episode lampoons a Fox News coverage of President George W. Bush's "spontaneous chat" with American troops in Iraq. Though not screamingly funny, it's worth a few chuckles and it gets the requisite Bush-lambasting out of the way.

ZETA-JONES. Singing and dancing dynamo.

Zeta-Jones' opening monologue is everything that you'd expect from the lovely and talented actress. It consists of a singing and dancing "Chicago"-ish number with the memorable line: "So, for the next hour and a half/ I make a fool of myself without a single laugh/ I dust myself off coz I must confess/ I still go home with Michael Douglas!"

Sketch

She also appears in the show's first sketch, CNN's Newsnight with Aaron Brown, wherein she plays an earnest reporter out in the field, whose looks slowly deteriorate as her surroundings batter her.

It's amusing to see her get uglier and uglier. But, the joke isn't able to drive a point since its writers apparently forgot to give it a punchline.

The next sketch, where a dancer brings her new non-dancer boyfriend to a Bob Fosse dancers' party, is better. So is the Creighton Boys School sketch that features Zeta-Jones as the new scene-stealing French teacher.

The *real* scene-stealer though is Rachel Dratch, who plays the suffering-badly-in-comparison Spanish teacher.

Weakest

As for the Weekend Update segment with Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, it is one of the show's weakest points.

Luckily, Fred Armisen makes an appearance as a blind comic called Pep Walters, who livens things up. Too bad they don't make him stay longer.

The episode's best moment is the Morgan Stanley commercial parody, wherein the stern father figure admonishing a reckless teen turns out to be the Morgan Stanley agent—now *that's* nothing less than inspired!

Paul Anka performs at the Big Dome

PAUL ANKA WILL PERFORM IN "I Did It My Way—Paul Anka, Live in Manila." The Viva-produced show will be held on May 14 and 15 at the Araneta Coliseum. Tickets are available at the Big Dome and at SM Ticketnet outlets.

Of Lebanese descent, Anka was born on July 30, 1941 in Canada. His first ambition was to become a lawyer or a journalist. He started to take music lessons when he was 12, and later competed in amateur singing contests.

Composition

His first composition, "Blau Wildebeeste Fontaine," was about an African town.

Armed with $100 in his pocket borrowed from his father, he wrote four songs and went to Manhattan. One of them was "Diana."

He then auditioned at ABC-Paramount and was soon signed up for a recording contract.

"Diana" was a love song he wrote for the babysitter of his younger siblings. Diana was 18 years old and wanted nothing to do with Paul. She later changed her mind—*but*, he wasn't interested in her anymore! The song shot to No. 1 in 1957.

Paul was 17 years old and already famous all over the world when he composed "Lonely Boy," a song he wrote for his mother, who died of liver disease.

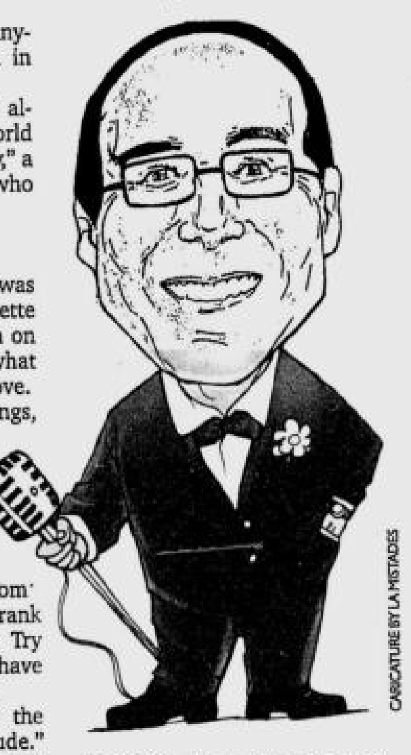
Big crush

His song, "Puppy Love," was written for top teen star, Annette Funicello. Paul had a big crush on Annette, but he was told that what he felt for her was only puppy love.

Anka has written 900 songs, among them "You Are My Destiny," "Don't Gamble with Love," "Crazy Love," "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" and "Times of Your Life."

He composed songs for Tom Jones ("She's a Lady") and Frank Sinatra ("My Way," "Let Me Try Again"), and 130 of his songs have been recorded by other artists.

"My Way" was based on the French song, "Comme d'Habitude." Paul bought the rights, wrote new lyrics and gave it to Sinatra.



CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

ANKA. Wrote the lyrics to Frank Sinatra's classic, "My Way."

Josh Lucas revs up . . .

From page A3-1

stories together.

Do you ever get star-struck by big co-stars like Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman, or Jennifer Lopez?

I always get extremely excited and honored when I work with big stars. But, I was truly star-struck *only* with two actors: Russell Crowe ("A Beautiful Mind") and Sean Penn ("The Weight of Water"). I want my work to be like theirs, so I sometimes compare myself to them—which is *not* a very healthy thing to do! *(laughs)*

Would you advise your kids to take up acting? I read that you transferred a lot—30 times before the age of 13!—as a kid. Why?

I absolutely wouldn't advise this job for my kids! This business is way too competitive and unpredictable. It's full of crazy, neurotic, and very unhappy people. I love what I do, but it's incredibly hard to work and thrive in its unhealthy environment.

It's true—my family moved a lot. If you want to create an actor, do that! *(laughs)* My parents were activists who did not believe in America's build-up of nuclear weapons. So, they moved from one community to another to urge people to spend more money on education rather than on nuclear power.

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5 GOLD (DOLBY) EIGHT BELOW
6 GOLD (SDDS) BASIC INSTINCT-2
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ICE AGE-2
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
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'Empire' on Hallmark Channel

MONTAGE

"EMPIRE" IS A SWEEPING EPIC starring Jonathan Cake ("First Knight"), Santiago Cabrera ("Haven"), Dennis Haysbert ("24"), and Trudie Styler ("Friends"). The Hallmark Channel Hot Pick for April revolves around Octavius, Caesar's 17-year-old nephew, who exults in the dictator's homecoming.

But, on the 15th of March, Caesar is killed. General Marc Anthony believes himself the rightful successor, but Caesar's dying wish has proclaimed the impetuous and inexperienced Octavius as his heir.

Threatened by Marc Anthony, Octavius finds refuge in Tyrannus, a gladiator sworn to protect and help him secure the throne. But, before they can even hope to succeed, they must first wrest power from Antony's devious grasp.

Premiering tomorrow at 9 p.m. for parts one and two, and on April 24, 10 a.m. for part three, "Empire" presents a tale of two men who come to learn the meaning of death-defying friendship and intimate betrayal.

LEDESMA AND SOUL. Successful tandem returns to Mandarin Oriental's Captain's Bar.

MADELA. Sings at SM Makati today.

James Bond on Star Movies

Every Saturday at 9 p.m., Star Movies screens "The Complete 007 Collection" of James Bond films. Schedule: April 22, "Moonraker" and "Licensed to Kill." April 29, "Never Say Never Again" and "Die Another Day." May 6, "The World is Not Enough" and "From Russia With Love." May 13, "A View to A Kill" and "Live and Let Die." May 20, "Goldeneye" and "Dr. No." May 27, "The Man with the Golden Gun." June 3, "The Spy Who Loved Me" and "For Your Eyes Only." June 10, "Diamonds are Forever."

Kuh and Bobby

"The Music of The Platters and More" will have a repeat performance at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel tonight. The hit show topbills Kuh Ledesma and Bobby Soul of The Platters singing memorable tunes from the '50s and '60s. Call 750-8888.

'Constantine' on HBO

Keanu Reeves plays an irreverent anti-hero in "Constantine," the film on view on HBO at 8 p.m. tomorrow. The dark action-thriller is directed by Francis Lawrence.

Journeys of Faith pilgrimages

Arlina Onglao's Journeys of Faith pilgrimage group has a full schedule of tours lined up for 2006: May 7 to 16, "Rediscovering Russia" travels through Moscow, Novgorod, and St. Petersburg, with optional trips to Medjugorje or Turkey, with Bishop Raul Martinez, DD.

Sept. 5 to 18, "Enthralling Eastern Europe" covers Poland (Czestochowa, Krakow, Wadowice, Auschwitz, Wielieska), Czech Republic (Prague, Cesky Krumlov), Austria (Vienna) and Hungary (Budapest).

Sept. 9 to 21, "Incredible India and the Himalayas" visits Nepal (Kathmandu), Tibet (Lhasa), and India (Kashmir, Delhi), with optional extension to the Taj Mahal in Agra, Khajuraho and Varanasi up to Sept. 27.

Oct. 16 to Nov. 1, "From the Ancient to the Medieval World" covers Turkey (Istanbul, Cappadocia, Konya, Pamukkale, Kusadasi, Izmir), Romania (Bucharest, Suceaua, Sighisoara, Brasou, Sinaia, Campina), with optional extension to Greece (Athens, Kalambaka, Meteora, Sounion), with Fr. Renato Jose Lopez, SSL.

Oct. 29 to Nov. 6, "Greece and Turkey Cruise" sails through Italy (Venice, Bari), Greece (Katacolon, Olympia). Turkey (Izmir, Istanbul) and Croatia (Dubrovnik).

Oct. 30 to Nov. 10, "Following the Gospel Trail (A Holy Land Pilgrimage Concert) covers Jordan and Israel, with Fr. Renato Jose Lopez, SSL.

Nov. 8 to 18, "Ancient Egypt" visits Cairo, Sinai, the Nile cruising from Luxor to Aswan, and Abuu Simbel).

Call Arlina or Rona at (632) 929-0144, 929-0155, (63) 917 814-8127, telefax (632) 426-7295, or email joinjourneys@gmail.com.

'Festivale Danze'

At 4:30 p.m. today, Enchanted Kingdom presents "Festivale Danze," a stunning parade replete with dance moves, musical grooves and fireworks. Also witness the grand opening of the theme park's newest ride, inspired by the movie, "Exodus: Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom."

Jed Madela

Jed Madela's "Songs Rediscovered" album tour hits SM Makati at 5 p.m. today. The album has already been certified platinum.

'Taxi'

Jimmy Fallon and Queen Latifah co-star in the buddy-action-comedy production, "Taxi," showing on Star Movies at 9 p.m. tomorrow.

BJ Forbes

Child wonder BJ "Tolits" Forbes performs at SM Bacoor today to promote his "Tolits Dance Hits" album.

Ballet at the Park

The La Union Dance Tutorial Services of San Fernando City is featured on Ballet at the Park at 6 p.m. today in "Alice in Wonderland at Iba Pa," a compilation of different dances with artistic direction by Edwin "Nonoy" Vicente.

Batanes photo safari

From page A3-6

reach as you survey the breathtaking view of a beachfront, where you can admire the sunset in all its glory.

"Yes, such a place exists. And this is just one of the sites in Batanes that will leave you in awe. Rolling Hills was the climax of our recent trip.

Senses

"I am not formally schooled in photography. But, in Batanes, where nature, people and culture stir the senses, these visual feasts will inspire you to take pictures.

"Mandy's morning huddles with 20 eager participants were very helpful. Lessons as simple as 'You will not have a picture without light' or 'Do not cut where the joints meet, *but* below or above them' were some of the tips that were not only logical, but also ensured that the foundations of proper photography were being laid early on.

Breathtaking

"Batanes' breathtaking scenery creates the perfect and memorable backdrop. All these elements facilitated experiential learning and, at the same time, ensured a uniquely enjoyable adventure. —Not bad for a first-timer like me."

* * *

The second batch of our Batanes Photo Safari is scheduled from May 23 to 26. Call 899-1767, or 0916 706-0130, or drop by Rm. 227, LRI Business Plaza at 210 Nicanor Garcia Street, Bel-Air II, Makati City.

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MOMENTS OF LOVE 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	ICE AGE 2 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	BASIC INSTINCT 2 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	EIGHT BELOW 3:50 / 8:50 ICE AGE 2 1:20 / 6:20
AMERICAN SOLDIERS 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	PAMAHIIN 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	EIGHT BELOW 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30 CHILDREN OF THE MOUNTAIN	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249 P299

AliMALL CINEMAS

1 D' LUCKY ONES 12:10 R3 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30	2 PAMAHIIN 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	3 SUBMERGED 12:15 R4 / 1:40 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 8:55
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40	5 EIGHT BELOW 12:25 / 2:55 / 5:25 / 7:55	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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GALLERIA 632-9116
1 BASIC INSTINCT 2 • THX
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
2 PAMAHIIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 SUBMERGED
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 THE COOLER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 D' LUCKY ONES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 EIGHT BELOW
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
7 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
8 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
9 ICE AGE 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
10 MOMENTS OF LOVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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1 ICE AGE 2 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50
2 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
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3 AMERICAN SOLDIER 12:35 3:00
BASIC INSTINCT 2 5:15 7:35 10:00
4 PAMAHIIN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 SUBMERGED
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
6 EIGHT BELOW
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 D' LUCKY ONES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
2 ICE AGE 2
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00
3 D' LUCKY ONES
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00
5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 EIGHT BELOW
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
8 PAMAHIIN
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 D' LUCKY ONES
2 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 PAMAHIIN
5 BASIC INSTINCT 2

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 SUBMERGED
2 EIGHT BELOW
3 PAMAHIIN
4 D' LUCKY ONES

WILLIAM H. MACY MARIA BELLO ALEC BALDWIN
Bad luck's been good to him. Now, lady luck is ready to change his fortune
the cooler

Exclusive

The Cooler: 12 nominations 6 awards from various international award-giving bodies

Bernie Lootz (Macy) is the unluckiest man in Las Vegas. His bad luck is contagious. Wanting to knock out their highest rollers, The Shangri_la Hotel and Casino, one of the last mob-run casinos in town, decides to use Bernie as a "Cooler" to reverse their lucky streaks. The scheme goes well until Bernie falls in love with a cocktail waitress, Natalie (Bello), who becomes his "lady luck", much to the alarm of the casino's crooked director (Baldwin), who is dead set on putting an end to the romance and Bernie's new-found luck.

Robinsons Movieworld
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4 D' LUCKY ONES

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 PAMAHIIN
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 D' LUCKY ONES
5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES

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3 PAMAHIIN
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5 NORTH COUNTRY

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2 PAMAHIIN
3 D' LUCKY ONES
4 EIGHT BELOW

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2 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
3 EIGHT BELOW
4 D' LUCKY ONES

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 PAMAHIIN
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
5 JUST FRIENDS
6 EIGHT BELOW

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 EIGHT BELOW
2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 ICE AGE 2

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Katie Couric takes the primetime plunge

By Nestor U. Torre

MOST MORNINGS, WE START our viewing day with the "Today" show on the Second Avenue channel. One of the show's main attractions is its host, Katie Couric, whose combination of intelligence, warmth, genuine interest and gift of gab makes her a big winner in our book.

Obviously, millions of other viewers agree, since Katie has been hosting the "Today" show for many years.

Recently, however, reports began circulating that she was thinking of moving on to something else.

Correspondent

In fact, she had been offered a solo anchorperson news slot by CBS, with additional work as correspondent on the network's newsmagazine programs. Would she take the plunge?

She did. A few days later, Couric announced on the "Today" show that she was indeed uprooting herself and moving to CBS News starting next month.

She was sad to leave her "Today" family, but the solo anchorperson position would be a high point in any TV person's career, and was especially prized—and rare—for a female on-camera talent!

An insider reveals that Katie gets paid something like $15 million a year for co-hosting the "Today" show with Matt Lauer (who gets $13 million), so it's likely that she'll be paid even more at CBS.

In addition, she will no longer have to wake up at 4 a.m. to get to the studio each weekday morning.—Nice work, if you can get it!

Morning show

These days, Katie is winding up her hosting chores on NBC's morning show—but, without the soggily and loudly tearful goodbyes we usually witness on local TV when a regular cast member leaves a show. How's that for professionalism and class?

When Katie announced her decision to move to CBS, viewers naturally wondered who would take her place. Her job was so prized that practically everybody wanted it.

Winner

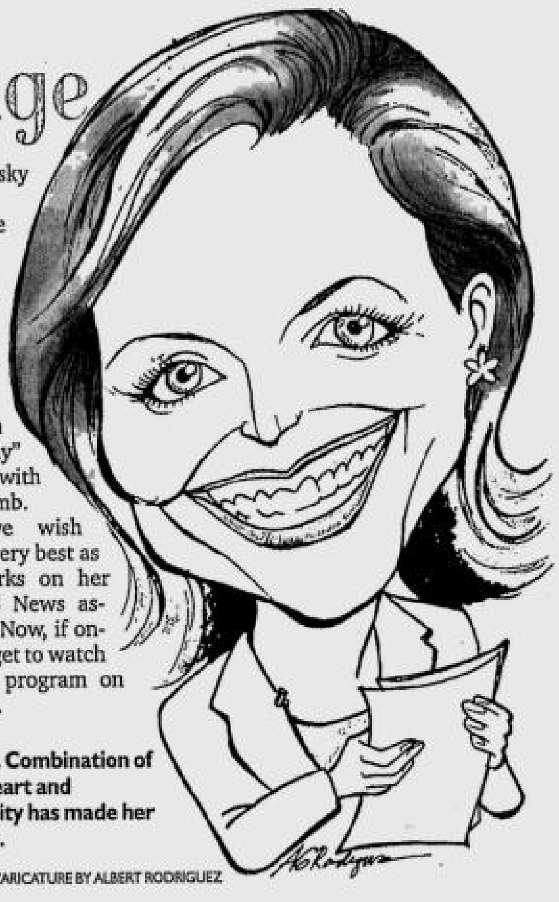
Our bet was "Today"'s newsreader, Ann Curry, another fine TV talent. But, when the smoke cleared, the winner was—Meredith Vieira.

She was an unknown factor in our book, but when we caught a TV interview with her, we sensed that the "Today" bosses had made the right choice.

Meredith is younger than Katie, but she conjures up pretty much the same combination of brains, heart and spontaneity that has made Couric such a TV icon for so many years.—And she has a husky speaking voice to die for.

We trust that Meredith will step into Katie's shoes on the "Today" show with great aplomb.

And we wish Katie the very best as she embarks on her plum CBS News assignment. Now, if only we can get to watch her news program on cable TV…



COURIC. Combination of brains, heart and spontaneity has made her a TV icon.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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Kamikazee (Apr. 22) Center for Pop (Apr. 23) Cats Show (Apr. 29) Nyoy Volante (Apr. 29) Starmall Edsa

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Batanes photo safari

TWENTY ONE PHOTO ENTHUSIASTS took the Asian Spirit flight to Batanes last April 13. In Sabtang, I realized that part of the group joined the photo safari only to see the place, and were equipped with digital point-and-shoot camera. Nevertheless, all the participants bonded together at the end of the safari.

Participants included Dr. Vivian Gonzales, Ralph Diaz, sisters Roxy Mendoza-Matsuda and Ioni Mendoza, May Bernarte, Sarah Encabo, Atty. Alma Logronio, Atty. Noel Liok, Alex Wong, Ronnie Fernandez, Blessings Ajero, Dr. Alisa Bernan, Dr. Monserrat Velasquez, Rosan Cruz, Leanna Romulo, Bettina Go, Glen Carberry, Clem dela Cruz, Goldie Martinez and my assistant, Amanda.

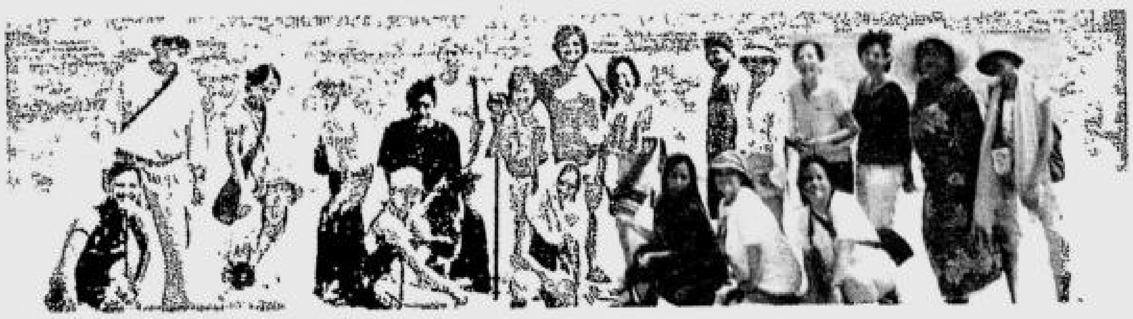
Here is an excerpt from Ioni V. Mendoza's essay, "My Batanes":

"Imagine having an overwhelming color of green enveloping you while trekking the undulating, high but narrow slopes, and feeling the strong, cool Pacific breeze on your face to

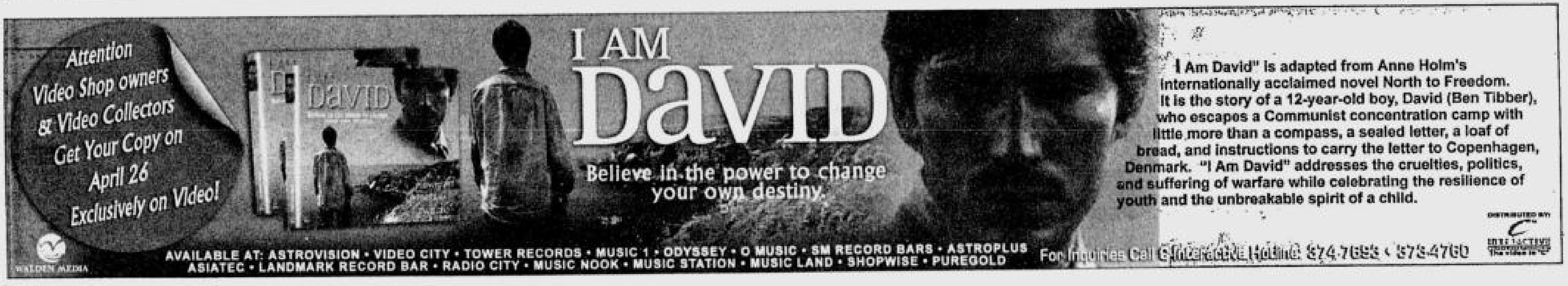
BATANES/ A3-5

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero



FEISTY workshop participants strike a pose.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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Saturday, April 22, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance? The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		OHA		Ripley's Believe It or Not		ABCinema			
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Little Big Star		Komiks			Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	XXX		Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		Agent Cody Banks				AXN Shakedown		Gamemanz (Season II)	E Buzz	The World's Most Shocking Moments Caught On Tape		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Lost (Season II)		Ronin			
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Pet Alien	Tom & Jerry Show	Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island	Camp Lazlo	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Teen Titans-The End			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Battle B-Daman	The Gransazers	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinema One	I Will Survive				Kung Ako Na Lang Sana				My Movie				Dyesebel				April Snow		
Cinemax				Tripwire			Look Who's Talking Now!				Father's Day (7:25 PM)			Real Genius			Above The Law (10:45PM)		
CNN		World News	CNN Business Traveller	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Main Sail	World News	World Sport	World News	CNN Business Traveller	CNN Presents		Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense	Forensic Files	Masterminds	Forensic Files	Bones		North Mission Road	Body Of Evidence	Crossing Jordan		Law & Order		Bones		Prison Break		Sudden Impact			
Discovery Channel				Unsolved History		Power Zone				Blueprint For Disaster		The FBI Files		Crime Stories		A Haunting		American Chopper	
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire	Totally Spies-Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Winter X-Games X - Day 4			X-Games Files '04	LPGA Golf Mastercard Classic Honoring				Pool Snooker World Pool Masters '04 Holland		Pool Snooker Mosconi Cup 2004		Major League Baseball '06: Orioles Vs Yankees					
ETC		Joan Of Arcadia		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C. 2		Beauty & The Geek		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Value	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos/Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pokus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel		[illegible] Daughters IV (3:15PM)		The Sandy Bottom Orchestra			Wedding Daze (5:40PM)				Family Plan (7:20 PM)			Fidel			Fidel (10:35PM)		
HBO	Rome Ep 09: Utica (2:40PM)		Now On The Big Screen In April	The Fighting Temptations				Real Women Have Curves			The Stepford Wives			Little Black Book			Deadwood 18 Something Very Expensive		Congo (11:40PM)
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Bucky the Incredible	Jester The Adventurer	Musumet	The X-Treme Team	Love Hina	Fruits Basket	Lost Universe	Hero TV Thatsbox	Babel II	II OVA	Captain Kuppa	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations Peacekeeper	Auto Review	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics		Btag		Philippine Sabong Sports			
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	Cheat	Filter	Bottomline		Raw				Distraction	Banzai	Mad TV		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network		HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine Andrea Immer	Food Fight	Dolia Plata	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		NY Fashion Week	How Do I Look		E! Extra Celebrity Adventures	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	All Eyes on Jay-Z and Nas	Bling	Made		Diary of Kanye at the Grammys	Making the Video Kanye Heard 'Em Say	Boiling Points		Wildboyz		Music with Attitude: Dashboard Confessional Live at [illegible]		MTV Hits		Brand New	Massiva	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic		Strange Days On Planet Earth		No Borders				Be The Creature		Built For The Kill		Hidden Worlds		Terrorism Watch				No Borders	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports [illegible]		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour (Replay)		[illegible] Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Kruzada Kontra Krimen	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob SquarePants	Trollz	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Dugong Buhay				Payaso				[illegible]				Ober Da Bakod 2				Misteryosa
Qtv		Twelve Kingdoms		Kaleido Star		Candies		Fans Kita		Aytil Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Global Window		Biyaheng Langit	Global Window	Man & Machine		Global Window		Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse				By Popular Demand	
SBN 21								Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports										NBA Greatest Game									
Sports Plus			This Is The PGA Tour		Golf Today	Gillette World Cup Preview 8	FIFA Preview Series 10	World Poker Tour 2				Ultimate Fighting Championship				Verizon Heritage Classic Highlights		Shell Houston Open Day 2	
Star Movies		Solo (2:05 PM)			Barbershop 2: Back In Business			All Dogs Go To Heaven 2			The Sweetest Thing (7:40 PM)			Moonraker				The Spy Who Loved Me	
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Wild Card		Less Than Perfect	The Drew Carey Show	Race To The Altar		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters/World's Most Amazing Videos		Enterprise		The Simpsons	Less Than Perfect
Studio 23								Sports TV	Nginig	TBA		Survivor Panama Exile Island (8:10 PM)		Studio 23 Presents					

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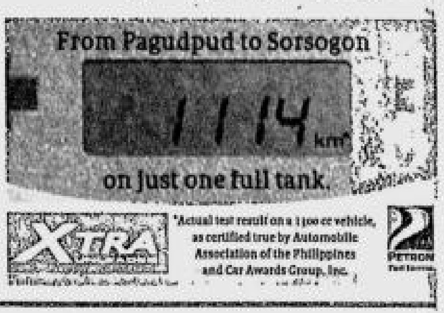

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Peso falls to 2-month low of 51.71 to $1

Oil firms increase demand for dollars

By Doris C. Dumlao

A DOUBLE WHAMMY FROM RECORD-HIGH global oil prices and declining local interest rates dragged the peso to a two-month low of 51.71 to a dollar yesterday after peaking at 50.88 this year.

The local currency shed 19.5 centavos to close at 51.69, or near the day's low, from Thursday's 51.495 against the greenback and would have fallen deeper if not for some intervention from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, currency traders said.

It was the peso's weakest finish since ending at 51.96 to $1 last Feb. 27. The strongest level of 50.88 seen so far this year was hit last March 7.

Currency traders said oil companies were scrambling for US dollars in anticipation of higher import bills as global oil prices rose past the $70-a-barrel mark in recent days.

At the same time, shrinking differentials between benchmark interest rates here and abroad likewise aggravated the selldown on the local currency.

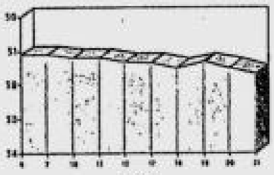
As of the last government auction, the bellwether 91-day treasury bill rate had slid to 5.25 percent versus an actual average of 6.358 percent last year and 7.3 percent in 2004.

Some traders estimated that the BSP had sold at least $20 million at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday, cushioning the peso's fall.

After easing from hurricane Katrina-related highs, crude oil prices are surging due to rising geopolitical uncertainties in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Iraq as well as threats to oil production in Nigeria. With crude oil consumption lower than expected in 2005, prices are being increas-

PESO/ B2

INDICATORS



₱ 51.69 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., April 21, 2006

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As of 5 p.m., April 21, 2006

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Gov't borrowings surge to P285B /B2

Disclose buyer, SEC tells GSIS /B7

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Stocks near 7-year high; PLDT leads rally

SHARE PRICES ROSE 0.9 PERcent to hit a near seven-year high yesterday as investors took positions in the major companies expected to report strong first-quarter earnings, dealers said.

The release of better-than-expected budget deficit figures for the same period also lifted sentiment, they said.

The composite index ended at the day's high, up 20.21 points at 2,262.97 after touching a low of 2,227.65. This was the best finish since Aug. 24, 1999, when it ended at 2,265.31. Volume was 4.79 billion shares worth P1.87 billion.

The broader all-shares index advanced 11.68 points to 1,394.49.

Gainers led losers 51 to 45, with 54 stocks unchanged.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the rally, ending at a record high of P2,000, up P45 or 2.3 percent.

The market opened on a weak note as investors took profits on mining stocks as the gold price fell sharply, support then emerged for several of the majors.

"People have started to rotate funds by cashing in on mining chips and buying into blue chips that are expected to report solid growth," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.

He said this was helped by encouraging economic data, such as the government's announcement that the budget deficit in the first quarter was P67.6 billion, well within the target of P71.8 billion.

Top-traded Ayala Land gained 25 centavos at P11.75 while its parent, Ayala Corp., was up P2.50 at P370. *AFP*

Gov't borrowings surge to ₱285B

1st quarter level up 57.24%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT's borrowings in the first quarter of the year reached P285.27, rising by 57.24 percent compared with the P181.42 billion borrowed during the same period last year, as fiscal authorities decided to borrow bulk of its financing requirement for the whole of 2006 early in the year.

The P285.27 billion borrowed in the first three months of the year was intended to plug the government's budget deficit and pay maturing obligations.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed that of the gross borrowings for the first quarter, foreign creditors accounted for P115.02 billion, while local sources contributed P170.25 billion.

Foreign borrowings are made up of official development assistance (ODA) from multilateral and bilateral agencies—including the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation—and of those acquired through the sovereign bond float made last January.

In the January bond issue, comprising of dollar- and euro-denominated bonds, the government raised P110.534 billion. The remaining P4.49 billion worth of foreign liabilities came in the form of ODAs.

Domestic borrowings are those sourced through the flotation of treasury bills, bonds and other government securities.

Of the P285.27 billion borrowed during the first quarter, 61 percent or P175.54 billion was to pay maturing liabilities. The remaining 39 percent, or P109.73 billion, was intended to help plug the expected P125-billion budget deficit for the whole of 2006.

The fact that the government already has P109.73 billion in cash, it needs to raise only P15.27 billion more to completely plug the expected budget deficit of P125 billion for the entire year.

The government's target of reducing the deficit to only P125 billion this year is in line with the Arroyo administration's medium-term program of wiping out the budget gap by 2008.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said the government's strategy of frontloading a large part of its borrowing requirements for the whole year in the earlier months was intended to take advantage of low interest rates.

The government plans to undertake another global bond issue before the end of this year to raise $900 million to $1 billion to help complete its 2006 financing requirement. On the domestic front, the Bureau of the Treasury auctions treasury bills and bonds every two weeks.

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BPI, HSBC to handle ₱1.3-B fund

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS approved the framework for the P1.3-billion ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund—an offspring of the new $2-billion fund pooled by 11 central banks from East Asia and the Pacific to boost local currency bond markets within the region.

The BSP announced yesterday that it has approved the trust deed constituting the new Philippine fund, a unit investment trust fund (UITF) product that will invest in peso-denominated bonds issued by the government and quasi-government institutions.

UITFs are pooled investments that are put in high-grade securities depending on the investment policy of the particular fund and are marked to market. These products are meant to replace the common trust funds, which are being phased out by the banking sector in compliance with the BSP's order.

"The BSP believes that the Asian Bond Fund 2 initiative, particularly the introduction of the ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund, will contribute to efforts in developing the domestic capital market," the banking regulator said in a statement.

"In particular, the BSP expects the fund to play a catalytic role in promoting new products, enhancing market infrastructure as well as encouraging better fund management structures and practices," it added.

The BSP said the ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund contained several features not found in other UITF products, including the separation of fund management and trustee roles in line with the principle of check-and-balance.

"The responsibility of the fund manager will be to grow the fund and meet the investment objectives stated in the trust deed while the function of the trustee will be to safeguard the rights and interest of the investors," the BSP said.

"By separating the roles, the trustee can independently check the compliance of the fund manager to the provisions of the trust deed," it added.

As a result of the separation of the fund management and trustee functions, the trustee is allowed to act as custodian of the fund.

The Ayalas' Bank of the Philippine Islands was mandated as the fund manager and distribution and marketing agent while HSBC Ltd. will be the trustee and custodian.

"It will be a passively managed fund designed to track the iBoxx ABF Philippines Bond index," the BSP said.

The fund also incorporates the establishment of a supervisory committee as an additional mechanism for good governance. The committee is an oversight body that will represent the interest of the unit holders.

The Philippine share was meager compared to the $2-billion total ABF2 size or even the BSP's own fund contribution of $100 million (P5 billion), but the allocation could rise significantly when the sovereign credit-rating improves.

Peso falls . . .

From page B1

ingly driven by concerns about future supply, with the International Energy Agency assessing both upstream and downstream investment to be significantly below desirable levels.

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines and treasurer at BDO Private Bank, said he was personally not worried about skyrocketing oil prices, believing that the uptrend would not be sustainable despite the turmoil in some developing oil-producing countries.

"The hedge funds have become really big investors and when they decide to invest in a specific asset class, they really move the prices. They move like herds. They invest in one asset class and everyone follows," Hilado said.

He said these hedge funds were not making much money out of interest rate trading plays, especially with the flat yield curves in the United States, and were thus pouncing on commodities like oil to get better returns.

"But at certain levels, the high oil prices will reduce demand as it encourages people to look for alternative technology and conserving use of fuel," Hilado said.

Manila Mining claims exploration permit is legal

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MANILA MINING CORP. YESTERDAY claimed that it did not misrepresent itself when it said that the government had renewed its exploration permit.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Manila Mining assistant corporate secretary Odette Javier said the company's disclosures in connection with the renewal of its exploration permit for the Kalayaan gold field in Surigao del Norte were "factually and legally correct."

Javier said the first renewal of its exploration permit, EP–XIII-014 was signed last Nov. 30 by Department of Environment and Natural Resources assistant secretary and Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Jeremias Dolino, who is the official authorized under DENR Memorandum Order No. 2003-46 to sign renewals of exploration permits. Cosigning and agreeing to the terms of the permit was Manila Mining representative and lawyer Pablo Ayson.

Javier added that the permit renewal document was forwarded to DENR secretary Angelo Reyes "for his notation."

"We had not represented that Secretary Reyes himself approved the permit," Javier said. "Under the cited applicable DENR regulation, the approval of the MGB director for the secretary is sufficient."

Reyes on Thursday denied having approved the renewal of the exploration permit of Manila Mining.

Saying that the company's claims misled investors, Reyes said in a statement that he has formally asked Securities and Exchange Commission chair Fe Barin to probe Manila Mining and to file the necessary cases against the company.

PNOC-EC releases dividends

State-run firm makes payout for the first time in 5 years

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN PHILIPPINE NAtional Oil Co. Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) will be releasing P20 million in stockholders' dividends for the first time in five years.

The payout is ten times more than the P2 million which the PNOC-EC released in 1999, the last year the firm made a dividend payout.

The state firm's dividends for 2005 represented 50 percent of its unrestricted retained earnings amounting to P40 million. These earnings took into account deficits incurred the year before.

In a statement, PNOC-EC noted that this year's dividend payout would be made on the back of strong 2005 earnings, with net income soaring 450 percent to P2.8 billion from P568 million in 2004.

It attributed the huge profit rise to high oil and gas prices, as well as the increased production volume of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project off Palawan.

PNOC-EC holds a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya gas find. The remaining 90 percent is evenly divided between Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Chevron Malampaya LLC.

The state firm last year chalked up P6.7 billion in revenue, a 49-percent rise from 2004's P4.5 billion.

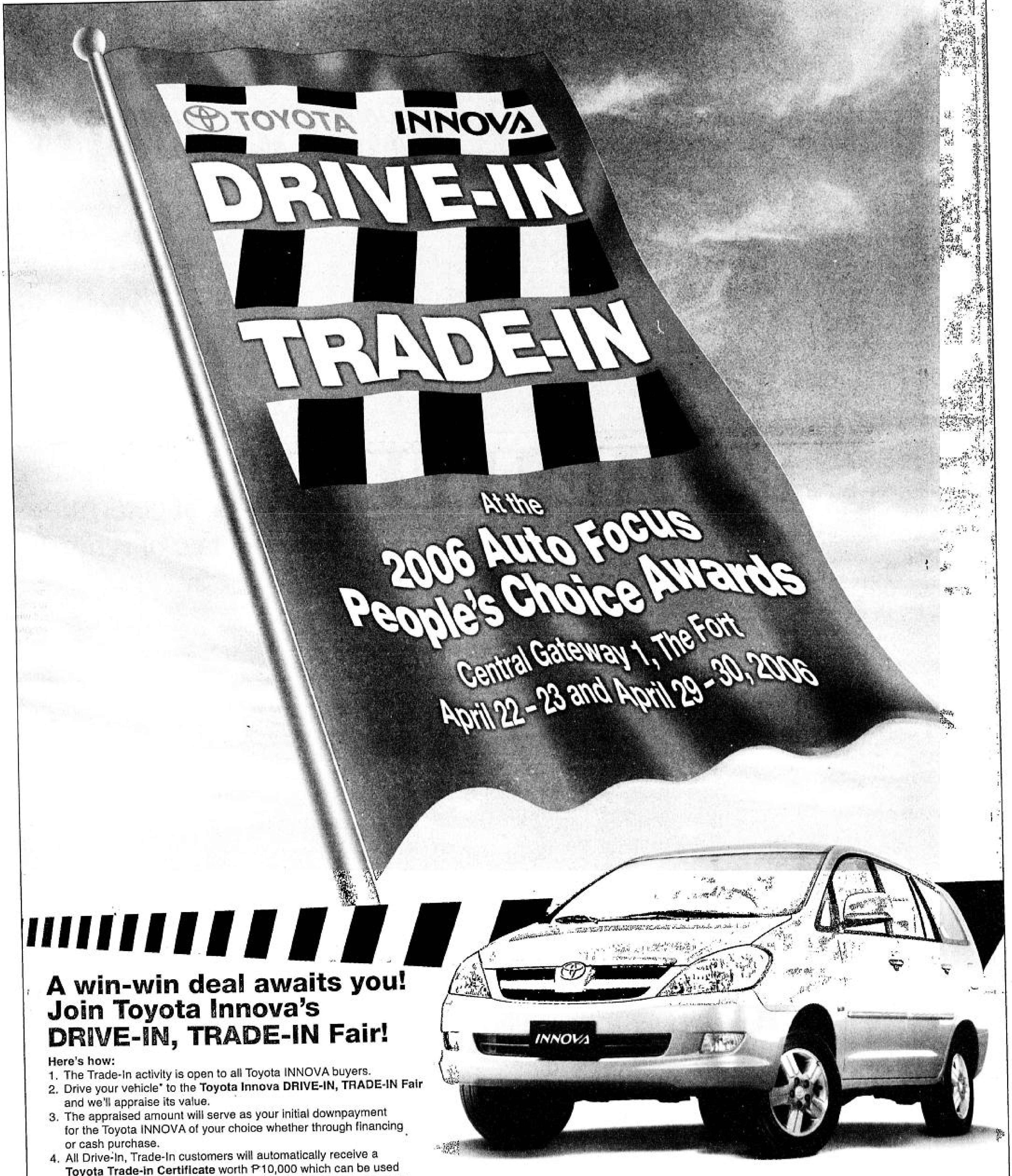
The bulk of this amount came from the Malampaya proceeds, which reached close to P5.1 billion in 2005.

Also contributing to the revenue growth were PNOC-EC's coal business with more than P1.5 billion, its Energy Supply Base in Batangas with P89 million, and the San Antonio Gas Power Plant in Isabela with P21 million.

"PNOC-EC has aggressively positioned itself in the forefront of petroleum exploration in the Philippines," the state firm had earlier said. "Its strong financial performance provides the company leverage as it pursues an intensified exploration program around the country."

The state firm currently holds stakes in various petroleum blocks off Palawan, Mindoro and Ragay Gulf. It is also preparing for the development of the Camago-Malampaya oil leg.

The government owns 99.78 percent of the state firm's shares of stock, with the remaining 0.22 percent held by public stockholders.



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Smart tightens grip on wireless broadband market

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE PHILIPPINES NOW HAS OVER 25,000 broadband wireless subscribers and will likely grow further after the country's largest wireless services provider consolidated its diverse products under one brand.

Yesterday, Smart Communications Inc. unveiled 'Smart Bro' as the new brand for its wireless broadband offering, marking a move from its earlier Smart WiFi brand which has received mixed reviews from early users.

Parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) will also be reselling Smart Bro in place of myDSL-W, its similar wireless broadband service brand.

The new product will be made available to subscribers starting tomorrow, and will be marketed with new promotional bundles.

Since it was introduced nationwide in September last year, wireless broadband has boosted Internet usage in the country.

"The uptake in the service is most apparent in rural areas where information and communications technology infrastructure has been lacking," PLDT and Smart president Napoleon L. Nazareno said.

At the end of 2005, wireless broadband subscribers accounted for 22 percent of the total number of broadband subscribers of PLDT and Smart. Broadband capacity and subscribers have been doubling every year since 2002 and, by the end of 2005, the number of broadband users of the PLDT group more than doubled to 114,000 from 48,000 as of end-2004.

The launch of Smart Bro highlights the PLDT group's strategy to provide a wide range of broadband connectivity solutions and dominate the market nationwide. Several other competitors also offer wireless broadband services on a smaller scale.

Smart has been able to rapidly roll out the service even in far-flung areas because it integrated many portions of the wireless broadband network with its existing GSM cellular network.

Smart Bro is a "fixed wireless solution" to provide broadband Internet access, which rides on the nationwide cellular network of Smart.

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4	B7 L19 & 20, Sta. Monica Homes, Bo. Caamaya, Mariveles, Bataan	House & Lot	33	100	403,700.00	with illegal occupants
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6	B22 L2, Alfonso Drive. cor. Rattan St., Alfonso Homes 1, Bo. Labas, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	2 Storey (RH)	73.16	71.4	704,000.00	with illegal occupants
7	B4 L4, Camias Lane, Alfonso Homes 1, Bo. Labas, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	1 Storey (RH)	36	54	396,000.00	with illegal occupants
8	B27 L2, Calatagan Dv. cor. Tindalo St., Alfonso Homes 1, Labas, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	2 Storey (RH)	65.5	74.8	686,400.00	with illegal occupants
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10	B5 L27 Ph4, Olympia Homes, San Vicente Road, San Pedro, Laguna	1 Storey (SA)	66	120	680,900.00	with illegal occupants
11	B70 L17 Dasmariñas St., Cityhomes Resortville, Lancaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	1 Storey (SD)	36	76	315,700.00	vacant

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(PDI–April 22, 2006)

A BIRD, locally known as a "tagak," crosses Mang Eloy Gutierrez's field of vision as the farmer uses a tractor to plow his rice paddy in Lubao, Pampanga. A government collection agency has forged agreements with rural banks to collect the loans of farmers that date back to the 1970s.

LYN RILLON

DA credit unit taps 10 banks to collect Masagana '99 loans

By Christine A. Gaylican

TEN RURAL BANKS AND one cooperative have been tapped by the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) to collect some P1.1 billion in loans acquired by farmers from the Department of Agriculture since the 1970s.

Rural banks in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Region, Central Luzon and Eastern Visayas will proceed with the collection of the agricultural loans, representing 20 percent of the P5.5 billion in total receivables the government agency has incurred over the years.

The ACPC has forged agreements with the following banks for the collection of agricultural loans: Rangay Rural Bank, which has been tasked to collect P84 million; Rural Bank of Central Pangasinan, P60 million; DA Regional Office II Cooperative, P535 million; Gate Bank, P34 million; Rural Bank of San Marcelino, P17 million; Bataan Development Bank, P16 million; Producers Rural Banking Corp., P64 million; Bangko Buena, P5 million; Rural Bank of Sibalom, P11 million; Rural Bank of Tibiao, P4 million; and Rural Bank of New Washington, P18 million.

The ACPC, according to the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, has been tasked to consolidate all the receivables of the DA's agri-credit programs.

The Masagana 99 ;program was initiated in the early 1970s to encourage adoption of high-yielding rice varieties. Private rural banks offered no-collateral, low-interest loans to small farmers, with the government guaranteeing 85 percent of any losses suffered by the banks.

Up to this time some P5.5 billion of loans released by the DA under the program are still unpaid.

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Lot Area: 309.00 sqm.
Floor Area: sqm.
Lot 7 Blk16 No.1720 Escuela St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price 6,397,000.00

MALABON

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 494.00 sqm.
(Lot 7) #18 Interior M Aquino St., Niugan
Minimum Bid Price : 727,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 294.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 116.00 sqm.
(Lot 31 Blk 10) 31 R. Diaz St., Merville Subd., Dampalit
Minimum Bid Price 1,236,000.00

MANILA

LOT 21 - Condo Unit
Floor Area: 35.20 sqm.
Unit 514 5Th Floor Plaza Towers Condominium Leon Guerrero Ermita
Minimum Bid Price : 380,000.00

LOT 22 - Lot & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 61.63 sqm.
Floor Area: 340.00 sqm.
1-B-3C-1-B/ 4041 #1620 G. Tuazon Corner Loreto St. Sampaloc Manila
Minimum Bid Price : 3,215,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 217.40 sqm.
Floor Area: 80.00 sqm.
Lot 21-D-4 #2401 Int. 21 Dagohoy, Singalong, Malate
Minimum Bid Price : 2,667,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 325.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 145.00 sqm.
Lot 8 / Blk 1, # 104(New) Alley 1, Dona Filomena Subd., West Crame, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 3,816,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT WITH IMPVTS
Lot Area: 443.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 7/Blk 101, Urbano St., Kabayanan, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price 5,383,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT WITH IMPVTS
Lot Area: 47.90 sqm.
Floor Area: 89.00 sqm.
Lot 32 Blk 279 1717 F. Varona Near Dandan Sts., Tondo
Minimum Bid Price : 774,000.00

MARIKINA

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 398.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 50.00 sqm.
L5B1 Rolling Hills Dr., Monterey Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 788,000.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 28 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 373.00 sqm.
(Lot 35-A-2-A) #78 Int. National Road, Putatan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,417,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

LOT 29 - CONDO UNIT & 12.50 PARKING SLOT
Floor Area: 37.50 sqm.
(Unit B2-14-3-J2-4) No. 3-A Papaya Bldg. II, Cluster 14, Westmont Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,011,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT WITH IMPVTS
Lot Area: 502.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 236.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-A, Int. Of Papa Pio St., Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,868,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT WITH IMPVTS
Lot Area: 296.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 155.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 6, 9-A & 9-B Roselle St., Mon-El Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,304,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-B-1-B Interior Of Papa Pio St Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,318,000.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 228.00 sqm.
Lot 23 Blk 2 Nina Ricci Drive, Savvy 25, Brgy. Marcelo
Minimum Bid Price 873,000.00

PASAY

LOT 34 - Vacant Lot
Lot Area: 404.00 sqm.
Lot 3, #355 F. Rosario St., Sta. Clara
Minimum Bid Price : 4,848,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 60.90 sqm.
Floor Area: 200.00 sqm.
Lot C-2-1 Unit 5 Hernandez Townhomes, 56 Don Hernandez St., San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price : 2,940,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 36 - 3-STOREY BLDG, ROOFDECK, CARPORT
Lot Area: 94.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 247.00 sqm.
L49B15 48 Sto.Nino St. Villa Espana
Minimum Bid Price : 2,596,000.00

LOT 37 - CONDO UNITS
Lot Area: sqm.
Floor Area: 96.00 sqm.
UnitS 3 & 4, 3Rd Flr. Heart Of The City Condominium, Sgt. Esguerra Corner Eugenio Lopez St., Brgy. South Triangle
Minimum Bid Price 3,192,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 44.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 80.00 sqm.
(Lot 58-C/B225) #17-C Bernardo St., Brgy Manilo, San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price 938,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 461.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 200.00 sqm.
11- B Elgino St., San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price : 6,346,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 416.00 sqm.
L6 B2 Remarville Ave., Remarville Subd., Seminary Rd., Bagbag, Novalichos
Minimum Bid Price : 3,782,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 488.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Quezon St., Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novalchies
Minimum Bid Price : 2,957,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 364.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 159.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 33 Butler St., Tumbok Bronx St., Fairmont I Subd. North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price : 2,953,000.00

LOT 43 - CONDOMINIUM
Floor Area: 50.16 sqm.
U3 3/F Rsg Condomium, Ermin Garcia St., Brgy.Pinagkaisahan,Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 933,000.00

LOT 44 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 250.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 167.00 sqm.
Lot 5-C-9 # 11 Private Road 20Th Ave. Brgy. Manga Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 3,080,000.00

LOT 45 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 312-B & 312-A, Loyola Heights Condominium. Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,101,000.00

LOT 46 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 612-B & 612-A, Loyola Heights Condominium. Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,215,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 481.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 196.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 7 #8 Promenade Lane. Blueridge B Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 9,153,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT WITH IMPVTS
Lot Area: 51.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 109.00 sqm.
Lot 27-A, Portion Of Lot 27/Blk 33, #1-A (Townhouse Unit) Bakawan St., Veterans Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,063,000.00

LOT 49 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 617.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 461.00 sqm.
Lot 3 & 4 Blk 1 # 7 Florvil St. Delta Village Brgy. Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 3,448,000.00

LOT 50 - Makeshift Improvement
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 001-A-4-A-5-A Interior Of # 17 Gloria II Tandand Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 825,000.00

LOT 51 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 120.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 428.00 sqm.
23-B / Lch-17 #32 Hyacinth St. Roxas District
Minimum Bid Price : 2,320,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT WITH IMPVTS
Lot Area: 526.40 sqm.
Floor Area: 384.00 sqm.
Lot 25 & 27/Blk 41, 98 Alley 2 Corner Alley 7, Project 6
Minimum Bid Price : 5,208,000.00

LOT 53 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 268.60 sqm.
Floor Area: 280.00 sqm.
5/34 #2 Jose Ma. Hugo St. Cor. May Isa St. Maria Project 4
Minimum Bid Price : 3,450,000.00

LOT 54 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 444.30 sqm.
Floor Area: 377.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk132, #19 Masikap St., Pinahan
Minimum Bid Price : 8,533,000.00

LOT 55 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 31
WITHDRAWN
Laguna St. Pasong Tamo
Minimum Bid Price: 3,079,000.00

LOT 56 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 181.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 86.00 sqm.
Lot 492-Dd-9 # 39 San Ignacio St. Brgy. Gulod Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,008,000.00

LOT 57 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 418.40 sqm.
Floor Area: 267.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 23 # 11 Maalindog St. Up Village Diliman
Minimum Bid Price : 6,709,000.00

LOT 58 – VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A Jasmin St., Dona Juana/Gilarmi Subd., Brgy. Holy Spirit, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price : 1,947,000.00

LOT 59 - Lot & Improvement
Lot Area: 192.15 sqm.
Floor Area: 192.00 sqm.
Lot 246-B-2-B # 44 Baesa Road Brgy. Baesa
Minimum Bid Price : 1,823,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 869.00 sqm.
Lot 199-B-3-K, Outskirt Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novalches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,217,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 540.00 sqm.
L11B1 & L2B5 Kasiyahan St Brgy Holy Spirit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,215,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 820.00 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 10 Sunnyside Hts., Filinvest Homes II, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price : 3,116,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 206.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 151.00 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 21 #23 Rizal St. Meralco Village, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,056,000.00

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 319.00 sqm.
Lot 4043-A-11, Barrio Pantay
Minimum Bid Price : 48,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 5, Canlibol, Brgy. San Gabriel, Teresa
Minimum Bid Price : 36,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 745.00 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 1, Forest Hills Estate Subd. Brgy San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,133,000.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,098.00 sqm.
Lot 33 Blk 10, Forest Hills Estate Subd. Brgy San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,046,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 68 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 90.00 sqm.
(Lot 42-A Pasolo Lolomboy Estate) #39(86) Pasolo Rd, Pasolo
Minimum Bid Price : 1,260,000.00

LOT 69 - TOWNHOUSE UNIT
Lot Area: 113.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 96.00 sqm.
(Lot 1) No. 1 Antonette Townhomes I, Pasong Balite St., Marulas
Minimum Bid Price : 664,000.00

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Performance will determine fate of refinery, says Shell

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL REFINER PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM Corp.'s robust performance last year may prompt it to upgrade its existing facilities and even expand its current production capacity through a fresh infusion.

Shell country chair Edgar Chua said that while the firm still has not decided on whether to shut down or expand its refinery operations here, last year's strong performance would weigh heavily on its decision.

"Hopefully it's a sign of things to come," Chua said. "It helps in having a positive outcome for the refinery. We should have something more concrete towards the end of the year."

Shell last year recorded after-tax profits of P5.7 billion, 102 percent better than its P2.84-billion performance the year before, despite slower gross sales.

Chua had earlier said that 2005 was indeed a good year for the refiner as it was able to deliver better returns as compared with past years.

"After many years of delivering return which are below market performance, 2005 saw a return on equity (appraisal basis) of 10.3 percent with our P5.7-billion net income after tax," he said.

Chua attributed the oil firm's strong financial performance to positive refining margins, increasing export revenue, higher lubricant sales, and better performance of its in-station convenience stores.

Since the downstream oil industry was deregulated in 1998, the company's average return on equity had been at a low 3.7 percent, while average return on capital employed stood at 4.2 percent.

"Company officials are hoping that last year's financial turnaround could serve as an indication that Shell's Philippine operations can deliver fair and reasonable returns to its shareholders on a sustained basis," Shell had said in an earlier issued statement. "This could also strengthen Shell's confidence in further investments in the downstream Philippine oil industry, where it has been an active player since 1914."

Chua said that should the oil refiner decide to infuse additional cash into its Philippine operations, it would initially be earmarked for the upgrading of its facilities to enable it to produce Clean Air Act-compliant fuels.

Petron Corp. recently invested around $100 million for such facilities, and another $300 million for new refinery units.

Bohol, Sorsogon plant expansions set

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NEW OWNERS OF THE 1.2-megawatt (MW) Loboc hydropower facility in Bohol and the 0.4-MW Cawayan hydroelectric power plant in Sorsogon will more than double the capacity of their plants.

According to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), Loboc owner Sta. Clara International is eyeing the construction of two additional generators, one with a capacity of 1.2 MW and another with 0.5 MW, to take advantage of the abundant water supply.

The state agency quoted Sta. Clara president Nicandro Linao as saying that while the Loboc plant was relatively small and in operation since 1957, its high capacity factor and the abundant water supply in the area made expansion possible.

Since PSALM turned the plant over to Sta. Clara, plant capacity factor had gone up to 90 percent from 77 percent, resulting in electricity production of 9.5 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) from 8 million kWh.

Meanwhile, Cawayan owner Sorsogon Electric Cooperative II (Soreco II) will be undertaking the Lower Cawayan Hydro Development Project (CHEP II), which entailed the construction of a new 2.4-MW generating plant.

"Cawayan's expansion program is a manifestation of our earnest response to heed the call of the government's power development program and avoid the power shortage projected to hit the Luzon grid in 2007," PSALM quoted Soreco II general manager Jose Gerald Cubias as saying.

Toshiba pushes notebook line

Japanese firm enhances audio, video features of units

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOSHIBA CORP.'S UNIT ENGAGED IN making and selling notebook computers is preparing for a consolidation of the global market by combining audio and visual features with high-tech computing.

Lim Kim Eng, manager of Toshiba's distribution business in Indonesia, Indochina and the Philippines, said the company was aggressively promoting its audio video-equipped laptops in a bid to realize the long-heralded convergence of technologies.

"I have heard about convergence as early as the mid-1990s but so little has happened so far," Lim said. "With our new notebooks, we are helping consumers realize this."

The official said Toshiba was pushing for the realization of convergence by bringing together consumer products such as music and video players with information technology.

"One such product line up, the Qomsio AV Notebook PC, will usher in the time when all notebooks have audio-video playing capabilities," Lim said.

"We have launched this in the Philippine market at the start of 2006, which means that what is available in Japan is what you have here in the local market," he added.

Toshiba's local partner, distribution firm Tricom Dyanamic Inc., yesterday announced that sales "have reach four digits" a month since the year started.

"We have not been able to sell a thousand units a month last year," Tricom senior manager Roger A. Salvante said.

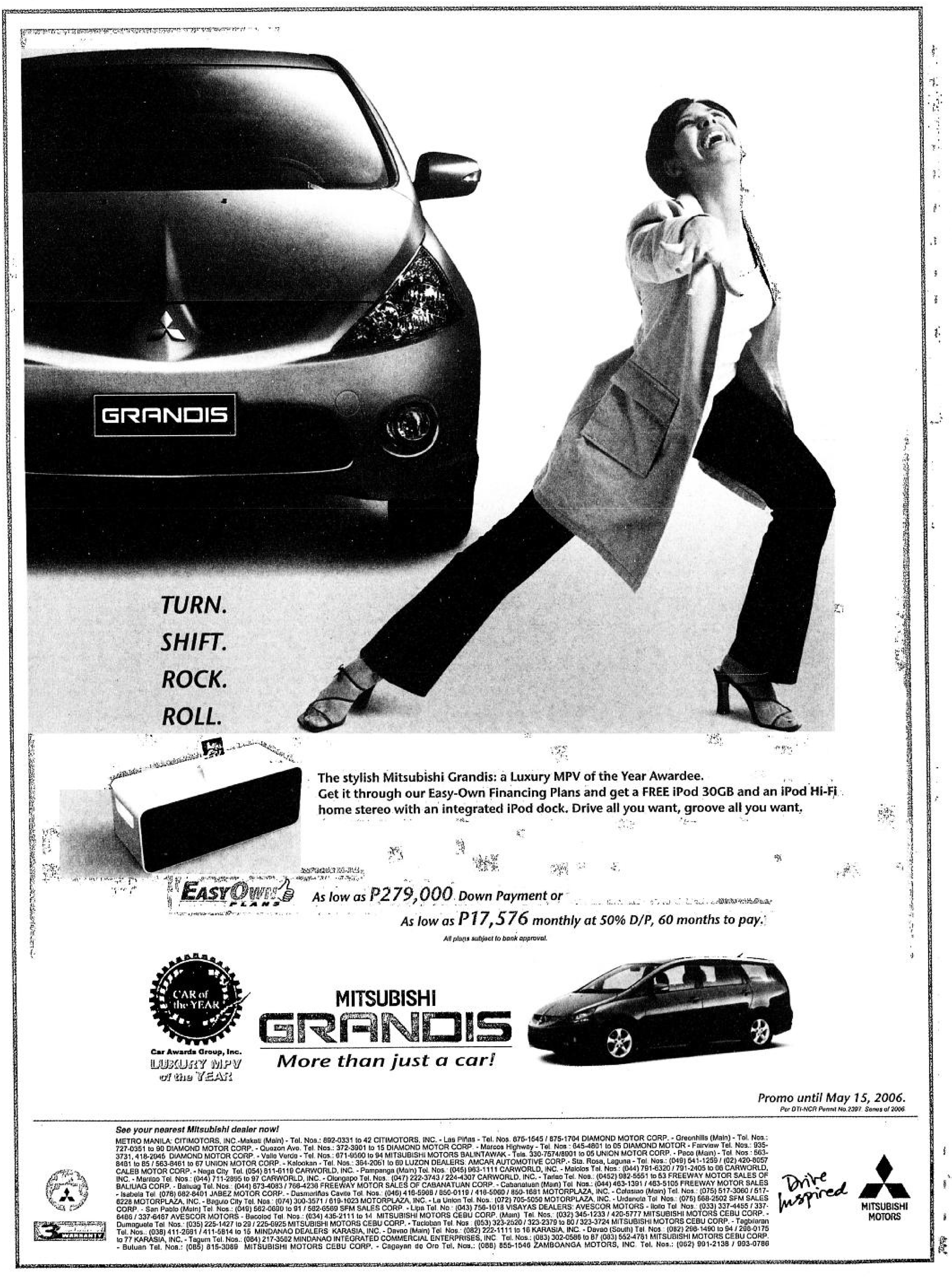
The Qomsio notebooks are priced between P120,000 and P190,000 but Lim said Toshiba had never aimed to be the price leader but had strived to be known for quality products.

Lim said Toshiba's current thrust with its notebook lineup was to prepare for an expected consolidation of computer makers.

"Some analysts are saying that of the six or so major players today, only two or three would remain after some mergers," Lim said.

He said Toshiba was positioning itself to be the one of the survivors by innovating with its product offerings.

"We don't want to just give consumers a box with relatively little value," Lim said. "We are a maker and designer of notebooks and we ensure that consumers can enjoy the benefits of convergence by giving them quality listening and viewing experience."



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Hepa B affects millions but gets little attention

By Charles E. Buban

APPROXIMATELY two billion people worldwide are infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV), and more than 350 million of them never recover from the infection.

These figures from the World Health Organization make HBV the most common infectious disease in the world today.

"In the Philippines, the prevalence of chronic HBV infection ranges from 5 percent to 16 percent, placing the country in the intermediate to high endemic region. Fifty-nine percent of cirrhosis cases and 82 percent of liver cancer cases in the country are caused by HBV infection," said David Elsaputra, general manager of Bristol-Myers Squibb Philippines.

"Yet chronic hepatitis B infection gets far less attention than say, HIV/AIDS, the bird flu and severe acute respiratory syndrome," he pointed out.

Chronic infection

An HBV infection is considered chronic if it lasts six months or longer. This happens when the immune system can't fight off the virus, leading to serious illnesses such as liver failure, liver cancer, cirrhosis and even death.

"Increased education and awareness on the national level will help patients understand how they can prevent the transmission of HBV and seek appropriate care if they are already infected," said Elsaputra.

HBV, like HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is transmitted through contact with the blood and body fluids of an infected person.

It is spread through having unprotected sex with an infected person, sharing needles when taking illegal drugs, exposure to needles or sharps on the job (for medical workers) or from an infected mother to her baby.

Bristol-Myers Squibb is introducing in the country a drug for hepatitis B which was recently approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Important drug

Elsaputra said that with the debut of entecavir, the Philippines may now be able to address more effectively the disease that has received little public attention.

"With the approval of entecavir, doctors here will now have an important new medication to treat chronic hepatitis B," said Elsaputra.

Entecavir, which is take orally, works by decreasing the amount of the HBV in the body.

Quick improvement

Elsaputra said that in a recent study on a form of chronic hepatitis called HBeAg-positive, Taiwanese researchers found that 72 percent of the 314 patients treated with entecavir showed improvement after 48 weeks of treatment.

"Perhaps the most promising aspect of entecavir therapy is the low rate of antiviral resistance, with HBV particles dropping to undetectable levels in 67 percent of the people in the entecavir group," Elsaputra said.

2-in-1 pill for diabetics

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE CONVENTIONAL TREATMENT for a multitype disease such as diabetes has been a specific drug for a specific class of diabetes. So it is not uncommon for diabetics to take more than one pill to combat the disease.

There is an emerging trend for treating diabetes, however, and it involves combination therapy drugs that give better results, particularly for diabetics with severe degrees of hyperglycemia, or high blood sugar.

A study showed that combination therapy for diabetes allows for lower dosages of each drug, which lowers the risk of side effects compared to monotherapy or if multiple drugs were taken.

Better success rate

Dr. Josephine Carlos Raboca, an endocrinologist at the Makati Medical Center, said the 2-in-1 tablet that combines metformin (which targets insulin resistance) and glibenclamide (which enhances insulin secretion) gets a better success rate.

"You have two smaller doses of two medicines [in one pill] instead of a big dose of just one medicine. Your chances for adverse effects are less," said Raboca, a member of the Philippine Diabetes Association and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.

In some patients, metformin could trigger gastric irritation; glibenclamide at higher doses could cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).

Better compliance

Raboca said the compliance rate would be much better for patients taking the combination 2-in-1 pill than if they took metformin and glibenclamide separately.

Jojo Laconico of Roche Philippines, one of the companies that offers the 2-in-1 metformin-glibenclamide drug, said the combination drug was a "better alternative to taking two separate pills."

"The adherence rate of patients has been higher," he said.

Raboca, however, stressed that a combination drug is not for all diabetics and the doctor is in the best position to determine if such therapy would work better for a patient.

Raboca said 4.1 percent of Filipinos have diabetes, and the figure is expected to increase in the coming years.

Battling osteoporosis

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

A 50-YEAR-OLD READER WAS TOLD BY HER doctor that she has osteoporosis. She wants to know more about the disease, what causes it, and what can be done to prevent it.

Osteoporosis, which strikes a lot of American women, is steadily on the rise in Asia. In fact, the World Osteoporosis Foundation estimates that by 2050, more than half of hip fractures will be in our region.

In Hong Kong, hip fractures have increased by 200 percent in the last three decades; in Japan, they increased 1.7 times from 1987 to 1997; in South Korea, four times from 1991 to 2001; and in Singapore, five times since the 1960s.

60 and older

The disease can strike adults as young as 30, but is more common in those aged 60 or older.

Osteoporosis is a degenerative skeletal disease characterized by brittle bones and increased fractures, especially of the hip, vertebrae and wrist.

Ironically, increased life expectancy is contributing to the rise of osteoporosis, since bone density declines with age. Our diets are generally low in calcium, which is important for strong bones. Also, we tend to lead sedentary lifestyles, with little or no weight-bearing activities such as walking, carrying and lifting.

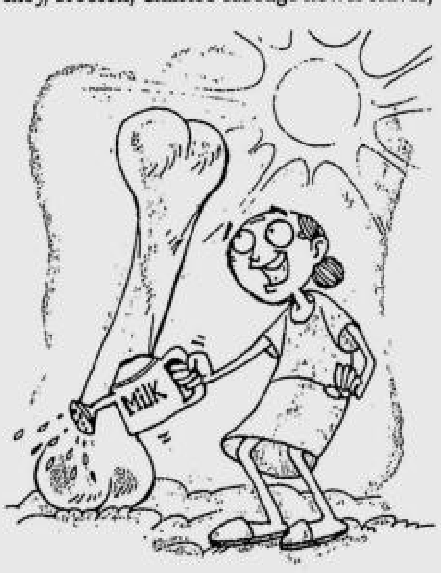
Diet and exercise can help prevent or deal with osteoporosis.

Weight-bearing exercises, where bones and muscles work against gravity, increase bone density. Exercise does not have to be expensive or fancy. Walking is a good example, and so are jogging, stair climbing, dancing or lifting weights (such as groceries).

Resistance exercises also improve muscle mass attached to the bone, which can provide more protection against fracture. Other activities like swimming and biking are not really weight-bearing, so they do not directly prevent this disease. However, they are beneficial in other ways, such as improving balance, which reduces the risk of falls, the most common cause of fractures.

Calcium

Having a diet rich in calcium is important. Consume dairy foods such as milk, yogurt and cheese, green leafy vegetables such as bok choy, broccoli, Chinese cabbage flower leaves, kale and spinach, soy-based foods such as soy milk and bean curds, and sweet potatoes and green beans. There are also calcium-fortified foods such as orange juice and cereal.



Vitamin D is also crucial and can be found in fortified dairy products, egg yolks, oily fish and liver.

Exposure to sunlight

Of course the easiest way to get Vitamin D is through exposure to sunlight. But do not overdo this.

According to the Asian Food Information Centre in Singapore, "Vitamin D can be synthesized in the skin through direct exposure to sunlight. The amount of vitamin D produced in the skin varies, depending on total exposure to UV light. Time of day, intensity of skin pigmentation, and the use of sunscreen have a direct impact on how much vitamin D the body is able to produce internally, and for many, including some vitamin D-rich foods in the diet is a prudent precaution. For those who have little or no direct exposure to sunlight such as those who are housebound, or who cover most of their face and body for religious or cosmetic reasons, dietary sources of vitamin D are especially crucial."

Osteoporosis patients can also take supplements. Calcium supplements and low doses of vitamin D have been shown to reduce hip fracture in older women. Talk to your doctor before taking any supplements.

Can osteoporosis be prevented? As with all diseases, early prevention is best. Bone mass is greatest in our 20s, then starts to decline slowly. Through weight-bearing exercise and a proper diet, we can minimize our risks of getting this disease.

For more information, go to www.osteofound.org.

Landmark spinal surgery performed

SURGEONS AT ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL Center recently implanted prosthetic discs in the cervical spine of a 32-year-old patient, a groundbreaking surgery that could help make vertebral disc replacement in the country as common as hip joint or knee replacement.

Dr. Mario Ver, consultant at St. Luke's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, headed the team that performed the procedure. It was the first artificial cervical disc surgery in the country and the first four-level total disc replacement in Southeast Asia.

The team implanted artificial discs to replace four bulging or degenerative cervical discs that had been causing severe pain in the neck of patient Lawrence Cuevas.

The procedure took eight hours, and Cuevas was discharged from hospital four days later, completely relieved of the neck pain.

"I can now move my neck more freely, and the numbness on my left arm is gone," Cuevas said.

Standard procedure

Ver is optimistic that as more of this kind of operation is performed, the technology will become standard surgical procedure for disc problems not just in the cervical spine but in other areas of the spine as well.

Spinal discs are located between the blocks of bone in the vertebra. They act as "shock absorbers" and add mobility and flexibility to the spinal column. With age, they can flatten and develop cracks, causing pain.

The standard treatment is the removal of the damaged disc followed by "fusion." A wedge of bone, usually taken from the patient's hip, is inserted in the empty disc space and left to "fuse" with the vertebrae. While it relieves symptoms, the fused vertebrae can limit neck movement and increase wear and tear on adjacent disc levels.

In the new procedure, the damaged disc is replaced with prosthesis, preventing further degeneration above and below the treated disc. The implant incorporates an elastic nucleus to provide shock absorption similar to the natural disc.

"This operation is becoming the most popular surgical approach for patients with this kind of problem," said Ver. "Those who went through the operation recover much faster than those who underwent harvesting of the bone graft, which is the most painful site even several weeks after surgery."

Health implications of fasting

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

FASTING HAS LONG BEEN CONsidered a symbolic demonstration of religious devotion, although some may undertake it as an act of protest or a commitment to a political cause. Some do it for health reasons, thinking it is an effective way to "cleanse" the body of whatever impurities that have accumulated.

There is a need to correct this potentially fatal misconception.

Fasting involves voluntary total food deprivation, with the person taking only water or juice. Doctors sometimes recommend brief fasting for half-a-day or less to rest the bowels in cases of diarrhea and in preparation for some diagnostic tests or surgery.

Some self-proclaimed health "gurus" recommend fasting for several days for its "cleansing effect."

But fasting for several days doesn't "cleanse" or rest the bowels, liver and other organs responsible for digestion and metabolism. In fact, prolonged fasting may cause changes in the acid-base and electrolyte balance of the body, and make the blood relatively "acidic" due to the toxins produced by the fasting itself.

Prone to infections

Prolonged fasting can be dangerous as it weakens the body's immune system, making one prone to infections.

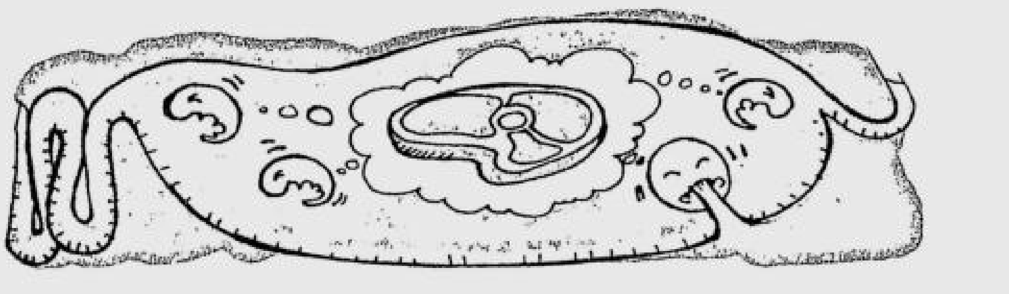
Proponents of fasting often evoke the "healing crisis" theory of naturopathy, claiming that people who fast may feel all sorts of symptoms because of the "poisons being expelled by the body." This is a ludicrous and risky theory.

One author, who is a proponent of prolonged fasting, says: "Adverse symptoms should be expected and welcomed. The toxins being discarded are saving you from more serious disease which will result if you keep them in your body too much longer… Don't try to stop these symptoms… These symptoms are part of a curing process, and don't try to cure a cure."

Disregarding adverse symptoms brought about by fasting has caused the death of some people. One patient who ignored the initial symptoms of fever, dizziness and weakness suddenly blacked out. The patient died in front of his 4-year-old daughter before reaching the hospital.

Muscle tissue breakdown

What happens to the body during fasting?



The body's nutritional requirements are met by the food we have just eaten and those saved in the cells, liver and other organs and in the circulating blood. Since the level of sugar and nutrients in the blood declines sharply with fasting, a breakdown (catabolism) of muscle and other protein tissue for energy occurs.

Some consider it a form of "self-cannibalism," the by-products of which (ammonia and urea) change the acidity of the blood. This produces weakness, fatigue, irritability, marked thirst and an overall sick feeling.

Fasting does not cleanse the body. On the contrary, it loads the body with metabolic toxins and decreases its capacity to excrete these.

Fasting also decreases the blood volume, bringing down blood pressure to critically low levels causing dizziness and fainting.

Severe potassium depletion can cause a fatal irregularity of the heart rhythm leading to sudden death.

Fasting is particularly dangerous for children, and believers in neuropathic medicine who make their children fast for health reasons should perhaps be charged with child abuse.

Prolonged fasting does not have any health benefit whatsoever. If one is healthy and would like to fast due to religious conviction, short periods of 24-36 hours should not pose any serious adverse effects provided adequate hydration is maintained.

Children, the elderly, pregnant or lactating women, and those who have medical problems should not fast. They can show their religious fervor through other means.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 21, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.8	3.8	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35	35.5	35	35	2,373,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62	62	61.5	62	551,900
China Banking Corp.	780	800	780	800	2,040
Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.48	0.48	5,320,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71.5	71.5	71.5	71.5	86,900
International Exch. Bank	32.5	33	32.5	33	28,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39.5	38.5	39	300,900
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	23,000
Phil. Savings Bank	37	37.5	37	37.5	11,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	15	14.5	14.5	80,000
Security Bank Corp.	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	5,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	38	39.5	38	39.5	8,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	2,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	28	5,300
Manulife Financial Corp.	3240	3240	3240	3240	10
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	80,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	185	185	185	185	60
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2140	2150	2140	2150	360
Ivantage Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	8,314,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	45	58,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	45	126,900
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.25	13	13	42,400
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.5	780,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	4,083,000
Petron Corp.	4.35	4.4	4.35	4.35	4,981,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	530,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	0.98	0.98	639,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Cadp Group Corp.	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	131,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	21.25	21.75	21	21.25	304,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	37	35.5	37	276,200
Pancake House Inc.	4	4.15	4	4.1	110,000
RFM Corp.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	250,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	2.95	3.05	1,629,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60	60	59.5	60	50,200
San Miguel Corp. B	82	82	81.5	82	94,700
Universal Robina Corp.	20.5	20.75	20.25	20.75	1,397,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE &ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.35	0.3	0.34	16,890,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.48	3,891,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.88	0.95	0.88	0.95	600,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.65	4.8	4.6	4.75	2,501,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	140,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.075	24,200,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	2,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.47	0.59	0.47	0.54	3,410,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	87,000,000
Ayala Corp.	367.5	375	367.5	370	293,560
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.6	1,021,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.65	2,680,000
APC Group Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	900,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	108,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.98	1	0.97	0.97	2,120,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	90,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.96	2,350,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.95	1,004,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	3.05	2.8	3	10,957,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.38	1.54	1.38	1.5	710,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.3	440,000
Medco Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	570,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.013	0.011	0.012	26,300,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	800,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	55,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	5,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	140,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.14	540,000
SM Investments Corp.	225	233	224	233	261,910
South China Resources Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.85	180,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.59	0.65	0.59	0.65	110,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.065	0.0725	0.065	0.0725	36,200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.125	0.135	2,450,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11.25	11.75	11.25	11.75	45,471,600
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	200,000
Belle Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	6,711,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.32	5,530,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.94	2.06	1.94	2.04	1,456,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.74	1.8	1.74	1.78	37,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	1,000,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	1,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.7	27,380,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.4	6,480,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	1,490,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	400,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,700,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	16,380,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.28	0.28	1,000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.2	223,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	750,000
SM Development Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	524,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.9	7,210,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	5,270,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	31,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.3	19,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	760,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	885	890	880	880	18,530
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.9	970,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1955	2000	1930	2000	169,980
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.195	0.195	3,700,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	3,200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.42	199,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	4,500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.028	0.029	663,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	20,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	163,500
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	1	1	0.95	0.95	300,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.68	1.72	785,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.55	0.56	2,330,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	4	3.1	3.5	1,459,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.1	2.2	2.04	2.08	3,176,000
Paxys Inc.	9.4	9.6	9.4	9.6	1,694,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.85	3,360,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	2.8	2.9	2.75	2.8	2,954,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	260,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.5	2,459,000
Benguet Corp. A	13.5	13.5	12.75	13.25	147,300
Benguet Corp. B	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	100
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	52,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.39	25,390,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.41	29,050,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.027	0.024	0.026	1,446,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.03	0.025	0.03	644,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	546,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.75	3.95	3.65	3.85	11,543,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.8	3.9	3.65	3.9	13,111,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	31	31.5	30.5	31	513,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	470,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	800,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.28	0.28	12,520,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	486,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	103,900,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.78	0.81	0.78	0.8	1,270,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.7	0.81	0.7	0.81	1,060,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	7.2	7.7	6.4	7.2	4,485,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	11	11	11	11	2,700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	11	11	11	11	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13	13	13	13	180,400

Disclose buyer, SEC tells GSIS

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission (SEC) has asked the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to disclose the identity of the "mystery buyer" willing to buy the 34-percent block held by the group of mall tycoon Henry Sy in Equitable PCI Bank at P95 a share.

SEC chair Fe Barin confirmed yesterday that a letter was sent to GSIS president Winston Garcia by SEC Corporate Finance Department director Justina Callangan in line with the watchdog's disclosure rules.

Under the rules, the SEC has the power to compel companies to disclose material information that may affect movement of company shares.

The SEC told the GSIS in its letter to disclose the identity of the "unnamed buyer" within five days from receipt of the letter dated April 7.

Barin said that in the meantime, the SEC continues to monitor all prices of stocks, including the movement of Equitable PCI Bank.

"The SEC, as its usual practice, is constantly monitoring all prices. The SEC is happy about the stock market's present trend, but it is closely monitoring all prices and those shares that are actively traded," Barin said.

Equitable PCI was unchanged at P71.50 yesterday, failing to ride with the main index's rise to a near seven-year high when it surged 20 points to close at 2,262.97.

The SM Group, on the other hand, had said no binding offer has yet been made on its 34 percent block in Equitable PCI Bank.

DISCLOSURES

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. has re-elected Enrique K. Razon Jr., Eduardo J. Soriano, Jose C. Ibazeta, Stephen A. Paradies, Dante G. Santos, Andres S. Soriano III and Ernest K. Cuyegkeng as directors, and Octavio Victor R. Espiritu as independent director.

***

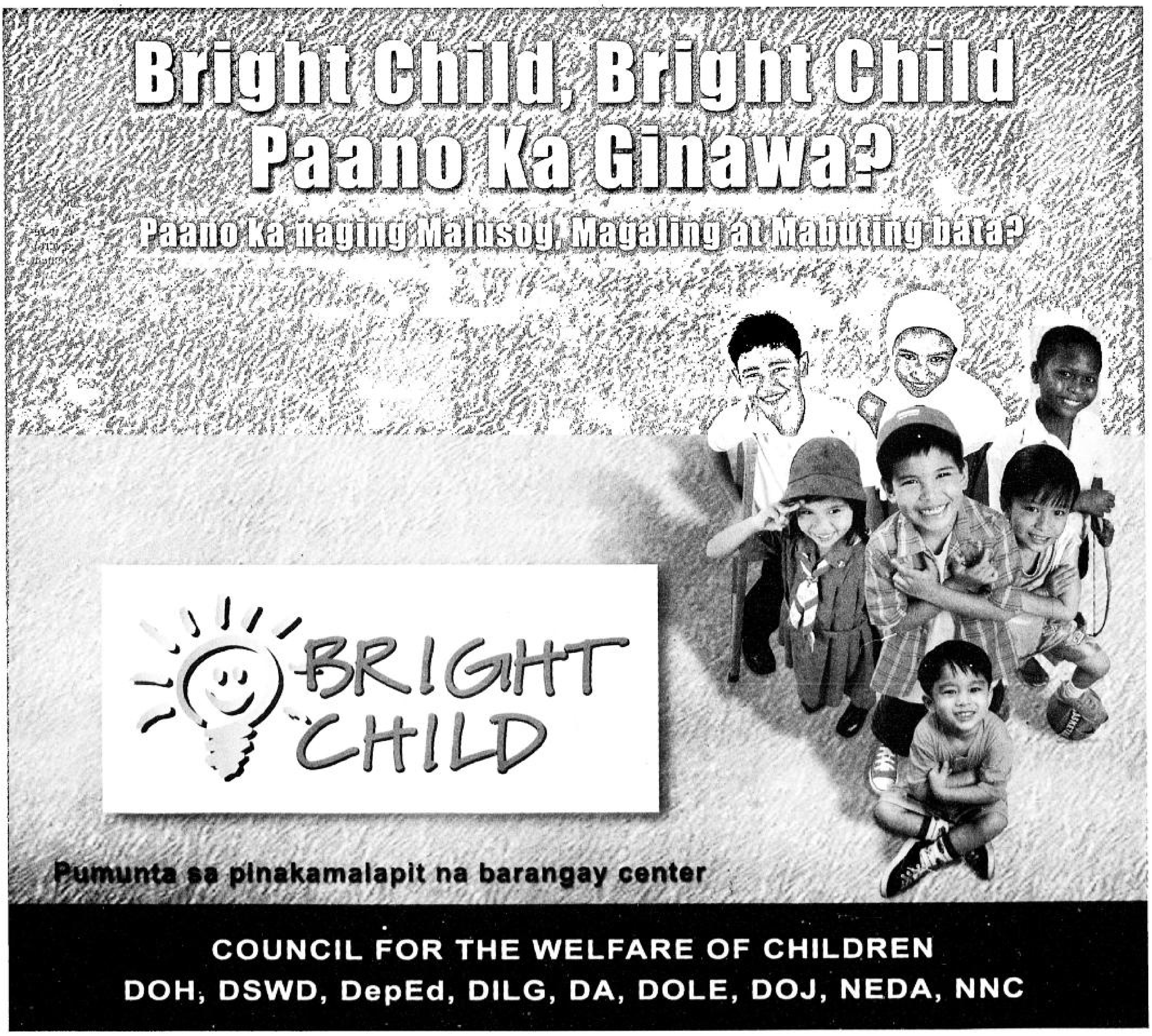
THE BOARD of Directors of **Universal Robina Corp.** has declared a cash dividend of P0.54 per share for stockholders of record as of May 19, payable on June 15.

***

MANILA Water Co. Inc. will hold an analysts' briefing discussing the company's first quarter results on April 26, 2 p.m. at the South Room A & B, 25th floor, Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City. *Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research*

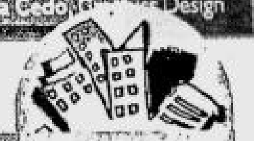
CURRENCIES

April 21, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.812018	1.000000	51.3820
Japan	Yen	0.006911	0.008511	0.4373
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444417	1.778800	91.3983
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104719	0.128962	6.6263
Switzerland	Franc	0.635134	0.782167	40.1893
Canada	Dollar	0.712984	0.878040	45.1155
Singapore	Dollar	0.508242	0.625900	32.1600
Australia	Dollar	0.598612	0.737191	37.8783
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.154065	2.652731	136.3026
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216503	0.266624	13.6997
Brunei	Dollar	0.506656	0.623947	32.0596
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000092	0.000113	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.021471	0.026441	1.3586
UAE	Dirham	0.221108	0.272294	13.9910
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.231500	63.2769
Argentina	Peso	0.265365	0.326797	16.7915
Brazil	Real	0.382667	0.471254	24.2140
Denmark	Kroner	0.134043	0.165074	8.4818
India	Rupee	0.018021	0.022193	1.1403
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221833	0.273187	14.0369
Mexico	New Peso	0.073575	0.090608	4.6556
New Zealand	Dollar	0.508655	0.626409	32.1861
Norway	Kroner	0.128121	0.157781	8.1071
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013538	0.016672	0.8566
South Africa	Rand	0.133941	0.164948	8.4754
Korea	Won	0.000856	0.001054	0.0542
Sweden	Kroner	0.107712	0.132647	6.8157
Syria	Pound	0.015643	0.019264	0.9898
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025179	0.031008	1.5933
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000378	0.000466	0.0239


Bright Child, Bright Child
Paano Ka Ginawa?
Paano Ka naging Malusog, Magaling at Mabuting bata?
BRIGHT CHILD
Pumunta sa pinakamalapit na barangay center
COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
DOH, DSWD, DepEd, DILG, DA, DOLE, DOJ, NEDA, NNC

ckalagayan@inquirer.com.ph
897-8888 local 238
Design

Tours, Leisure & Chow



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Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

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Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinto St. Roxas Blvd.
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
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www.executiveplazahotel.com

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
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www.marriott.com

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Manila: (02) 750-1896 /Fax (082) 221-9979

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Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Bellevue Manila
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Alabang, Muntinlupa
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www.thebellevue.com.ph

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Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

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Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401

Dusit Hotel Nikko
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http://manila.dusit.com

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Waterfront Hotel Mactan
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www.waterfronthotels.net

Celebrating Spring at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Benkay

BENKAY- AUTHENTIC JAPANESE CUISINE, Manila's favorite Japanese restaurant, serves a wide selection of Japanese dishes made from only the best and freshest ingredients from Japan. Throughout the years, Benkay has been celebrated for its well-loved and authentic Japanese cuisine by food connoisseurs and has created a loyal following both locally and internationally. This month of April, Benkay gives its patrons more reasons to celebrate with its new menu creations.

Delight your taste buds in April with Benkay's "Spring" menu offerings to celebrate the abundance of the season. Newly arrived Japanese chef Tomiyama gives you a sampling of his Haruna To Shirauo No Tempura (fried spring vegetables with ice fish) and the Hanami Bento, a huge bento platter filled with exquisite Japanese fare using varied colors of spring, priced at only P850++ per person. And to complete your meal, chef Tomiyama used cherry blossoms to add sweetness to his "Spring" Japanese sweets, like the Kuzumochi (P130++) and Dorayaki (P120++), among other exclusive dessert creations. "Each item we offer are prepared with every effort to delight guests and assure patrons that our dishes are authentic" exclaimed chef Tomiyama as he described his "Spring" creations.

As an added treat, diners with a minimum food purchase of P950 at Benkay on April 16, will receive a complimentary access coupon to Dusit Hotel Nikko's "Easter Family Fair" activities at the Grand Ballroom.

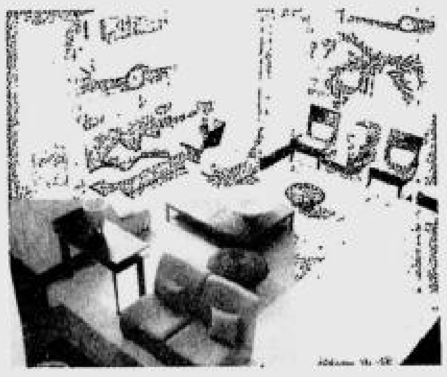
Benkay is located at the lobby level and is open daily for lunch, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and for dinner, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. For inquiries, please call the restaurant manager at 867-3333 extension 3343. Advance dining reservation is advised.

Mouth watering 'Fisherman's Platter' at Café Miranda

A GREAT MOUTH WATERING treat awaits everyone at City Garden Suites' Café Miranda Restaurant this whole month of April. Discover the sumptuous "Fisherman's Platter" for only P250 net. Enjoy dining, chat or drink with the bountiful plate of "Fisherman's Platter" which includes Shrimp Scampi, Calamari, Grilled Mahi-mahi, Baked Mussels served with Lemon Butter sauce.

City Garden Suites – Manila the "All Occasion Celebration" venue also offers complete party packages for wedding, baptismal, debut, kiddy party, etc at reasonable prices. For as low as P6,250 net for 50 persons, the complete wedding package includes a delightful variety of delicious food from appetizer to dessert, overnight room accommodation with breakfast for two, wedding cake, guestbook, souvenirs, flower arrangements, doves with decorated cage, house wine for ceremonial toast, torch parade, backdrop and signage, sound system, and free use of function room for 4 hours.

City Garden Suites – Manila is conveniently located at 1158 A. Mabini Street, Ermita, Manila. For inquiries and reservations, contact (632) 536-1451 local 119 look for Portia or e-mail bqt_cgs@citygardenhotels.com.



Waterfront Hotels and Casinos brings back 'Indulgence 2006'

WITH THE OVERWHELMING success of Waterfront Hotels & Casinos' Indulgence program, the country's largest Filipino-owned Hotel chain is now gearing up for another round of irresistible offerings. "With the re-launch of Indulgence 2006, guests now have the chance to relive and enjoy delicious perks and generous discounts in any of the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos across the country," delivers WHC corporate sales and marketing director Mr. Joey Bernardino.

WHC's Indulgence program 2006 has an added perk: It now includes in its expanding roster of properties their newest acquisition, the newly renovated and revamped Manila Pavilion Hotel. "Indulgence is a celebration of 4 hotels with 1 booklet," says Bernardino. Another added premium is a new feature for 2006: Instead of the 5+1 promo in previous years', this years' Indulgence will feature value for money and a straight up rate of just P10,000 each! Each booklet entitles the bearer to 4 over-night room accommodations, translating to one over-night stay in any of the following hotel properties of their choice: Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino and Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino Mactan, both located in Cebu City; Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao and Manila Pavilion Hotel. Moreover, the booklet also holds one additional voucher that entitles guests to a delicious complimentary buffet for one person for every 4 paying guests in Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's UNO, Waterfront Airport Hotel & casino Mactan's UNO and in Manila Pavilion Hotel's newly re-opened Seasons.

Added value, convenience and affordability comes in the form of one pre-paid booklet containing 4 overnight privilege vouchers. And as if that weren't enough, each Hotel property throws in additional privileges indicated in their coupon. Privileges such as complimentary access to Citigym, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's newly-renovated Fitness Center, or a 50 percent discount on drinks at Boulvar, Manila Pavilion's chic lounge in the Hotel lobby, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., plus a standard 10 percent off on all Hotel-owned restaurants, and so much more.

Indulgence 2006 booklets are limited in supply and its vouchers are valid up to Dec. 31. For inquiries and reservations, one may call the Waterfront Hotels & Casinos Manila Sales and Reservations Office at (02) 687-0888, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino at (032) 232-6888, Waterfront Airport Hotel Casino Mactan at (032) 340-4888, Manila Pavilion Hotel at (02) 526-1212 and Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao at (082) 233-2881. Interested parties may avail of Indulgence 2006 booklets at the Front Offices and Business Centers of the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos, Manila Sales and Reservations Office and Accredited Travel Agencies.

People, Events & Products

MAJESTIC GAS AVAIL OF INSULAR LIFE'S SSIP

Majestic Gas Inc, (MGI) a distributor of Caltex Liquefied Petroleum Gas to restaurants and hotels, recently availed of Insular Life's Salary Savings Insurance Program (SSIP). The SSIP is a convenient premium payment facility for employees or members of private and government entities who want to buy ordinary life insurance for themselves and their immediate family members and pay premiums on a monthly mode through salary deduction. Signing the agreement are: Insular Life Metro East regional manager assistant vice president Lauro G. Concepcion and MGI general manager Rodel B. Langi. Witnessing the signing of the agreement are (standing from left) MGI employee Rhandy Labao, New Life unit manager Rebecca C. Eustaquio Pasig Eagles District sales manager Laida V. Maquilan, MGI human resources and payroll officer Juliet M. Lim, MGI employees Lydia G. Benosa and Eugene B. Reyes, and IL New Life SSI specialists Filomeno L. Detabali and Jeanne M. Maglaque. For information call 893-9683 or 817-3051 ext. 5048 and 3221 or log-on to www.insularlife.com.ph.

Ka-Banahaw Clean-Up Crusade 2006

THE KABATAANG BINUKLOD NG KALIKASAN ENVIRONMENTAL MOUNtaineering society of the Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC-KABAN emc), with the sanction of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Protected Areas and Wildlife (PAWL) agency of DENR, will hold a clean-up drive and tree-planting activity around the mystic mountain of Mt. Banahaw on April 22-23, supporting its on-going rehabilitation program. Dubbed as "Ka-Banahaw Clean-Up Crusade 2006," this environmental activity will be participated in by other mountaineering and concerned groups such Ayala Mountaineering Club, Inc. (AMCI) and the Kabalikat Civicom Phils. Supported in part by High Camp, Conquer, Sandugo, Columbia, Camp-O and JJVS Computer Shop, this event is still open for sponsorship to make it even more fruitful in pursuit of protecting, conserving and maintaining ecological balance in the very environment where humans can only survive. For details, kindly contact Edgardo Tenepere, Jr. at 822-5612 or Derek Constantino at 0918-9387213.

Foreign Chambers Trade Fair

'CREATING A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES', THIS YEAR'S THEME OF THE Foreign Chambers Trade Fair is slated on April 21-22 at the Mega Trade Hall of SM. Said to be the biggest in its 5th year, the trade fair, has added new sections like the generation of jobs through a 'Job Fair' conducted by different call centers, The English is Cool Expo which promotes the use of English amongst the youth and highlights the necessity to reactivate English as the youth's ticket to the future, and the promotion of wellness, healthcare and medical services as the "new" business opportunity for the Philippines. For more information, call Cancham at 843-6457, or Anzcham at 755-8840.

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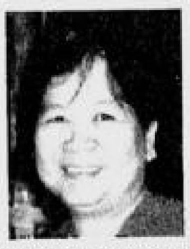
Rizalian Batch '90 general assembly

RIZALIAN BATCH '90 Association Inc. invites all Rizal High School Batch'90 graduate to a general assembly on April 22, Saturday, 5pm. at the RHS Alumni Hall, Caniogan, Pasig City.

For details and inquiries please call Lilliemer Manalo at 0922-809-5405 or Eugene Espinosa at 0917-735-9605. Relive the fun, Reminisce the moments and share the vision.

More Classified Ads on Pages A17, A19 & B4

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



EMILENE G. JUANE or **KETY JUANE** whose picture appears above ceased to be connected with The Learning Child, Inc. as of March 31, 2006.

Any transaction entered by her and her associates will not be honored by The Learning Child, Inc.

(PDI–April 22, 2006)

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Esteban Legaspi Village, Makati City.

dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that ePLDT, VENTUS, INC. is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New IT-Export Service Firm in the field of Operation of a Call Center on a Non-Pioneer Status with project/plant site located at PLDT Building, F. Ortigas Jr. corner Gamet Roads, Pasig City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–April 22, 2006)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that on April 18, 2006 the laptop case of JOHN CRAIG WARREN, a British citizen with address at Abundant Grace, San Fabian, Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya, was stolen by an unknown customer at Betty's Eatery, Chanum Street, Baguio City together with its contents which were:

a. British Passport
b. American Green Card
c. Philippine Resident's Permit (ICR) 350791, Date of Issue November 13, 2003
d. Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) E299249, Date of Issue November 13, 2003
e. A Kalanguya Book
f. Wallet containing his American Express Card, Two (2) BPI ATM Cards, Master Card, Wells Fargo Cargo Card, Bank of America ATM Card, and cash amounting to P5,000
g. Assorted Clothing

That on April 19, 2006, he executed as Affidavit of Loss as per Doc. No. 335, Page No. 67, Book No. XIII, Series of 2006 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Daniel D. Mangallay of Baguio City.

(PDI – April 22, 2006)

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TRANSCO PRESIDENT ADVISES CEBU GRADUATES
Speaking before college graduates of the University of Cebu and Cebu Institute of Technology recently, National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) President Dr. Alan T. Ortiz emphasized the importance of education as a tool for the realization and fulfillment of one's potential. "The best graduates among you will be leaders —people who, no matter where you put them, and no matter how difficult the circumstances may be, will find opportunities for growth and change. He also said that with the completion of TransCo's Leyte-Cebu and Cebu–Mactan Interconnection Projects, which has secured power supply in Cebu for the next 5-7 years, the province's march towards economic development has been further boosted.

OBITUARIES

Our dearly beloved Mama and Lola

Concepcion Yap Rebosura

"Lola Conching"

of Bulan, Sorsogon

Peacefully joined her Creator
on April 20, 2006 at the age of 84.

Her loving husband **Bonifacio** (†); children **Imelda, Linda, Irma, Beth** and **Mimi**; sons-in-law **Buddy, Carling, Irme, Bong** and **Noel**; grandchildren **Mike, Em-Em, Chippi, Anne, Carla, Wobie, Honey, Tammy, Paolo, Trixie** and **Pochie**; sister **Aida Yap Barrun**; sister-in-law **Crispina M. Rebosura**, all her relatives and friends who love her so much request the pious readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in the presence of our Lord.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the Himlayang Pilipino after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

EX-MAYOR

VIVENCIO C. PAVINO JR.

OF LUCBAN, QUEZON

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 19, 2006 at the age of 82.

His family requests the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in the presence of our Lord.

His remains lie in state at his residence at Rizal Avenue corner San Luis St., Lucban, Quezon.

Necrological services offered by Sangguniang Bayan ng Lucban at 10:00 a.m., April 24, 2006 at Lucban Municipal Hall.

Interment will be on Monday, April 24, 2006 at San Luis Memorial Park, Lucban after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

EFREN HENRY S. FERAREN

January 15, 1955 – April 13, 2006

wish to convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to those who in various ways expressed their condolences during our time of bereavement.

The family and relatives
of the late

FRANCISCO C. UY

who peacefully joined his Creator
on April 13, 2006

wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to all those who in one way or another condoled with them in their hour of bereavement.

OBITUARIES

"A rare and great light has gone out,
but one that has made all others
shine brighter."

ROSARIO TIRONA JOAQUIN

*Has joined her husband "**Ike**" and peacefully rests*
in the infinite warmth and embrace of the Lord
on April 18, 2006 at the age of 82 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Her bereaved children **TESS, LINDY** & Joe Jalbuena, **TINA** & Bobby Erum, **ED** & Bing Noel, **CECILE** & Jun Yasay, **RENE** & Sarah Lim, **FREDDIE, CHARO** & Bing Villegas; grandchildren & great grandchildren; brother **ELISEO TIRONA**, and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the family mausoleum, Loyola Memorial Holy Trinity Chapel, Marikina on Monday, April 24, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"Peace in the heart, Light in the understanding"

BENJAMIN RIVERA LAGDAMEO

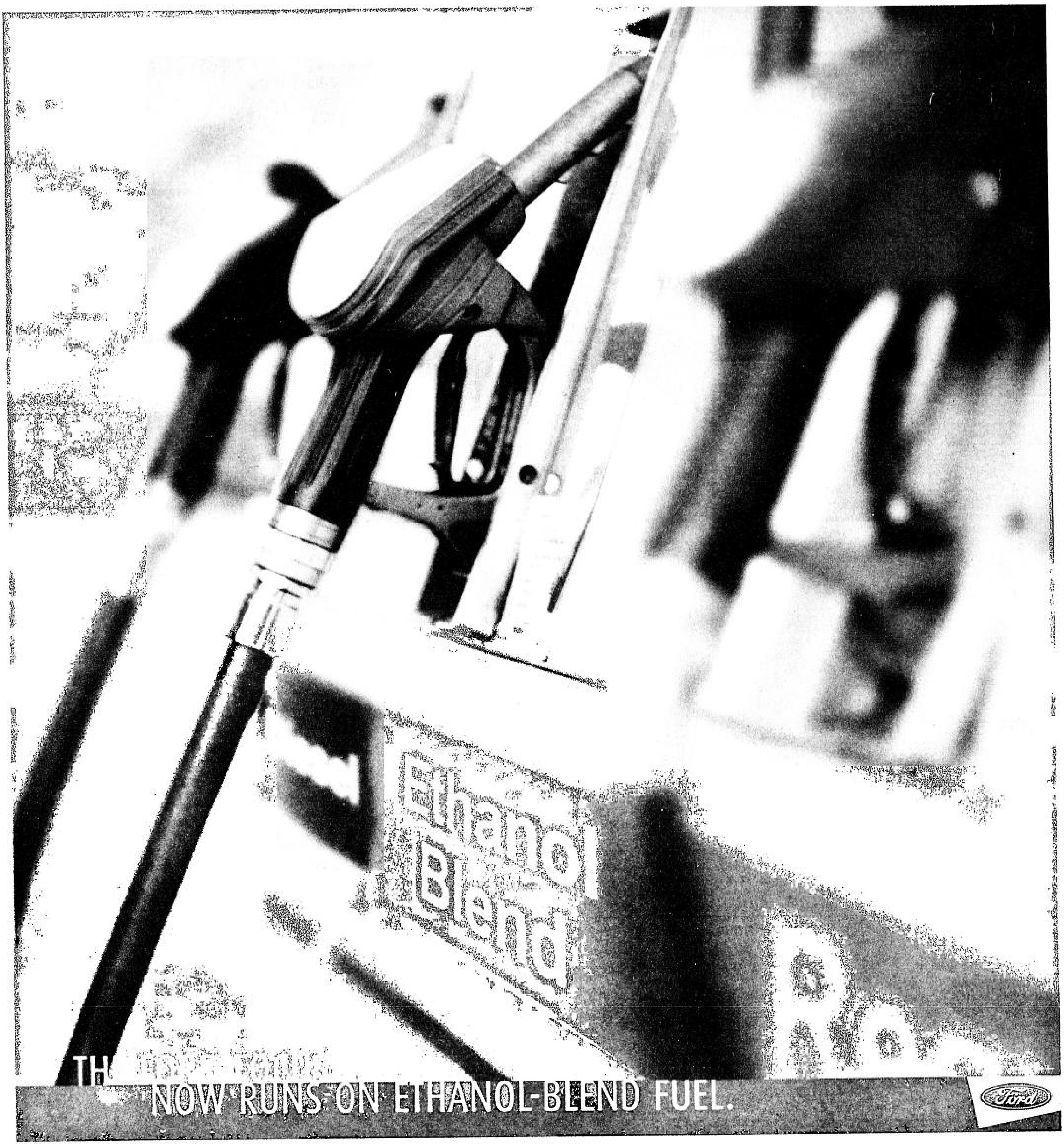
Loving husband of **Nenita Esteva**

Passed into the Light on April 20, 2006 at the age of 83.

He is remembered with great love and affection by his children and their spouses -- **Eddie** and **Merlene Rivilla, Rosario Beatriz, Buddy** and **Rosalyn Ivory, Marc, Karina** and **Osbi Santillan, Rico** and **Arnie de la Fuente, Liza, Elin** †, **Denis**; his grandchildren and their spouses – **EJ** and **Anna Bollas, Mindy, Michie, Jason** †, **Sian** and **Manuel Legarda, Natalya, Daniel, Julian, Sara, Myki, Raphael**; his great-grandchild – **Edoardo Carlos**; his brothers and sisters – **Amado** † and **Marita** †, **Fe** † and **Andres** † **Palma, Pilar** † and **Benigno** † **Zialcita** and **Elvira** † and **Jorge** † **Royeca**; and his in-laws **Pilar** † and **Apolonio** † **Abola, Pepe** † and **Remy Esteva, Pacita** † and **Dick Lichnok, Terry** and **Johnny** † **Wilson**, and **Mila Esteva**.

His body will lie in repose at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park until April 24, 2006. Interment will be on April 25, 2006 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9 am Memorial Mass.

His family, relatives and friends request all readers to pray for his eternal soul.



It's the country's first Flex Fuel Vehicle*, running on pure gasoline or gasoline mixed with up to 20% ethanol. Ethanol is made from natural sugarcane, making this alternate fuel renewable and environment-friendly. While other vehicles are still getting ready to be ethanol capable, this car is clearly ready for the future.

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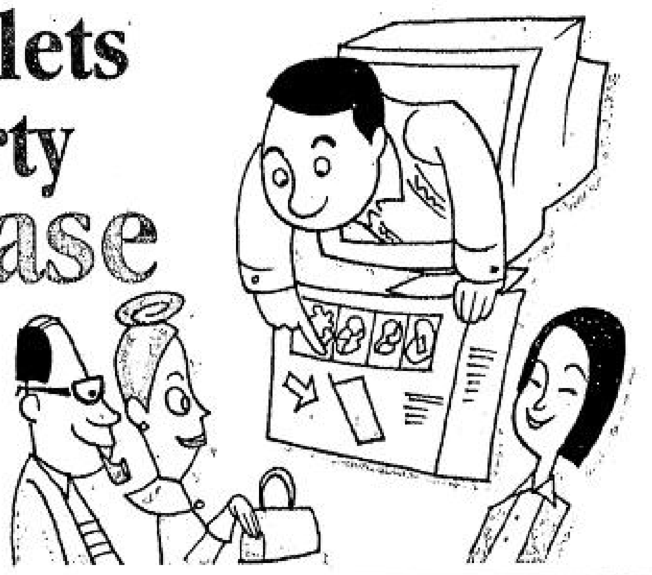
Digital survey lets you 'see' property before purchase



By Tessa R. Salazar

CRUELTY HAS ITS way of getting into property buyers' lives. Some end up buying "open polygon" properties shaped like a "Z" or a "G" and finding out later that these configurations are useless and have wasted millions of their pesos.

Other parcels of land have been tagged "prime property," only to be discovered later that these properties were obscure islands in the middle of the South China Sea. Other properties are even more obscure that their locations are undisclosed.

Add to this the aggravation that it takes several months and numerous government agencies to obtain a complete property profile.

Digital wizardry

Thankfully, there is no need for "divine intervention" to ease these woes. All it takes is a bit of digital wizardry.

The Digital Survey, a third party audit which spots overlapping titles, excess boundaries and opening or closure of properties, is being marketed by Image Business Marketing Summit Inc.

Company president Bernadette Brillantes said that using its system, a landowner or would-be buyer can see where the parcel of land is actually situated—all the way down to the barangay level.

Geographic layers

It identifies geographic layers connected to the land title (information and statistical data both absolute and variable). "Absolute" would mean bodies of water, land elevation, soil characterization, earthquake fault, flood prone area, and climate, among others. "Variable" would refer to characteristics possibly altered by recent political, economic and social changes including political boundaries, demographics, zonal value, presence of utilities and infrastructure, population and/or registered voters.

Using this information, owners and buyers can compare and double check if the original location plan they have in their hands is correct. They can also check whether the size indicated in the titles is correct.

Apart from land titles provided by clients, the digital survey can also be based on tax declarations or lot plan with technical description and land monument.

Results of the digital survey can be produced within 24 hours.

"You can avoid faulty decision-making by having the properties checked first," said business development officer Chris Mirabueno.

Typographically erroneous

He added that 60 percent of those who approached the company for digital surveying have titles (or contents) that are typographically erroneous.

Mirabueno cited one land title which was specified in Pangasinan but was actually located in Pampanga.

The information provided by the Digital Survey approximates the computerized land information system of another company that offers over 50 types of information layers on land nationwide.

To be able to avail themselves of the Digital Survey, landowners and buyers must submit a clear photocopy of the land title in question. The system will then extract the technical description from the document and plot the data on the master database.

Once recognized, problems can then be resolved at the Land Registration Authority and Land Management Bureau.

Many functions

Among its many functions, the Digital Survey can assess the valuation of the land represented by the technical description of the land title that is processed.

With its zonal valuation layer of data sourced from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the exact calculation of the area, one can also immediately estimate the value of the property.

Brillantes claims that afterward, the true or correct titles in the database shall already be protected from any future attempts of land grabbing and overlapping.

The Digital Survey has an electronic file in XML format. It would cost P1,950 per title.

The survey employs computerized offsite infrastructure developed using techniques in software engineering.

Computer-aided design is used to compute for the lot data that ultimately plots the parcel into a spatial realm.

Among its many sources, the digital maps used are based on the official maps from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria). These maps provide standard spatial coordinates to the GIS processor. All geographic layers used in processing the Digital Survey are synchronized using these standard coordinates.

More information can be accessed via www.ibmsi.com.

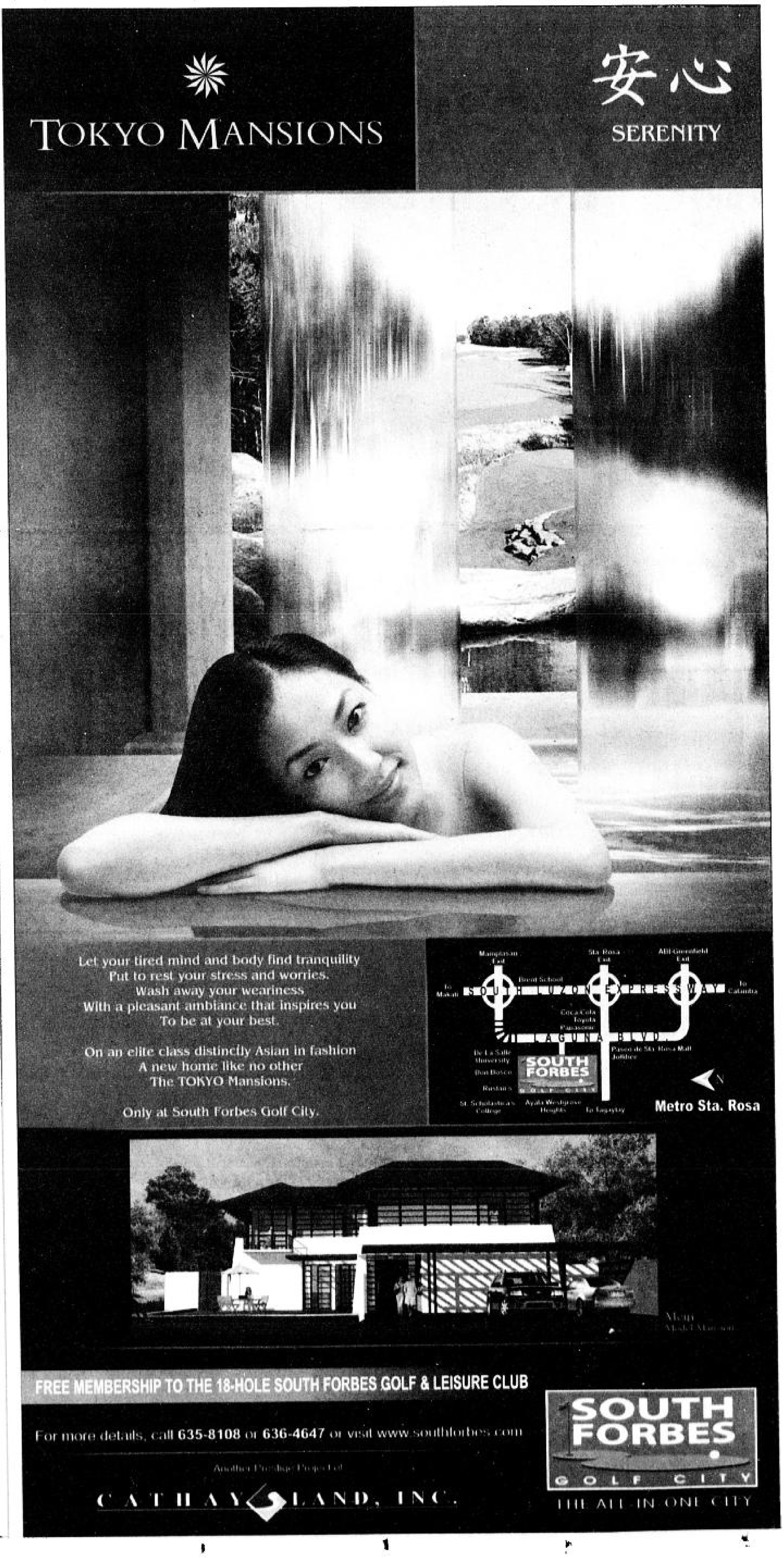
Shedding light on blinds

THE STYLE AND SAFETY FEATURES of blinds have come a long way, thanks to companies like Hunter Douglas that have revolutionized the form and functionality of the product.

Compared to windows, blinds offer these advantages:

- **Light control.** Blinds can control light better than curtains. Hunter Douglas's blinds, in particular, are known for their variety and flexibility in controlling light. During daylight hours, they can allow a healthy measure of sunlight to enter a home. They can also diffuse and gently filter it, rather than block it, so that its positive effects can still be felt without the nuisance of a harsh glare.
- **Energy efficiency.** Studies show that 50 percent of solar heat that enters a room comes in through windows. With curtains or draperies, it's hard to control the room's temperature as the day changes, but with blinds, it's easier to either trap heat inside or prevent it from coming in. Hunter Douglas has particular fashioned blinds that can help increase or decrease temperature as it enters a room.
- **UV protection.** Just as sunscreen protects skin from the sun's damaging ultraviolet (UV) rays, blinds can protect a room's furniture. Furnishings made of wood, for instance, can suffer premature aging the same way people do. Too much light and heat can also bleach and dry out and fade the color of paintings and Oriental rugs. Virtually every Hunter Douglas product filters out at least 75 percent of the sun's harmful UV rays when closed over double-glazed glass windows. Many of its products provide even greater protection, up to 99 percent when closed.
- **Unwanted sounds.** If your room is prone to reverberations and echoes, blinds can help absorb those sounds. This is also true of sounds that come from outside. Hunter Douglas has blinds specifically made to address these concerns.
- **Style.** Blinds can now easily address one's design needs. Vertical blinds, for one, can add height and dignity to a room, while horizontal ones can evoke relaxation and informality. And when it comes to design-savvy blinds, interior designers and decorators look to Hunter Douglas as their brand of choice—whether they're designing a family home, a vacation house, a café, a restaurant, or an entire office.
- **Privacy.** If you live in a busy street, privacy is first and foremost about blocking unwanted views. If you live in a private subdivision, privacy is not about blocking views but about creating a sense of emotional security.
- **Durability.** Blinds are good investments as they can last one a lifetime. Hunter Douglas Venetian blinds, for one, are known in the industry for their high-quality aluminum slats with high-tensile strength that can resist moisture and minimize permanent bending and damage.
- **Care and cleaning.** While curtains need washing and drying, all you have to do to clean blinds is to wipe it with a moist cloth.

For more information about Hunter Douglas products, you can call (02) 453-3155, 0920-9249756, 0915-4062136, or e-mail at luxaflex@hunterdouglas.com.ph.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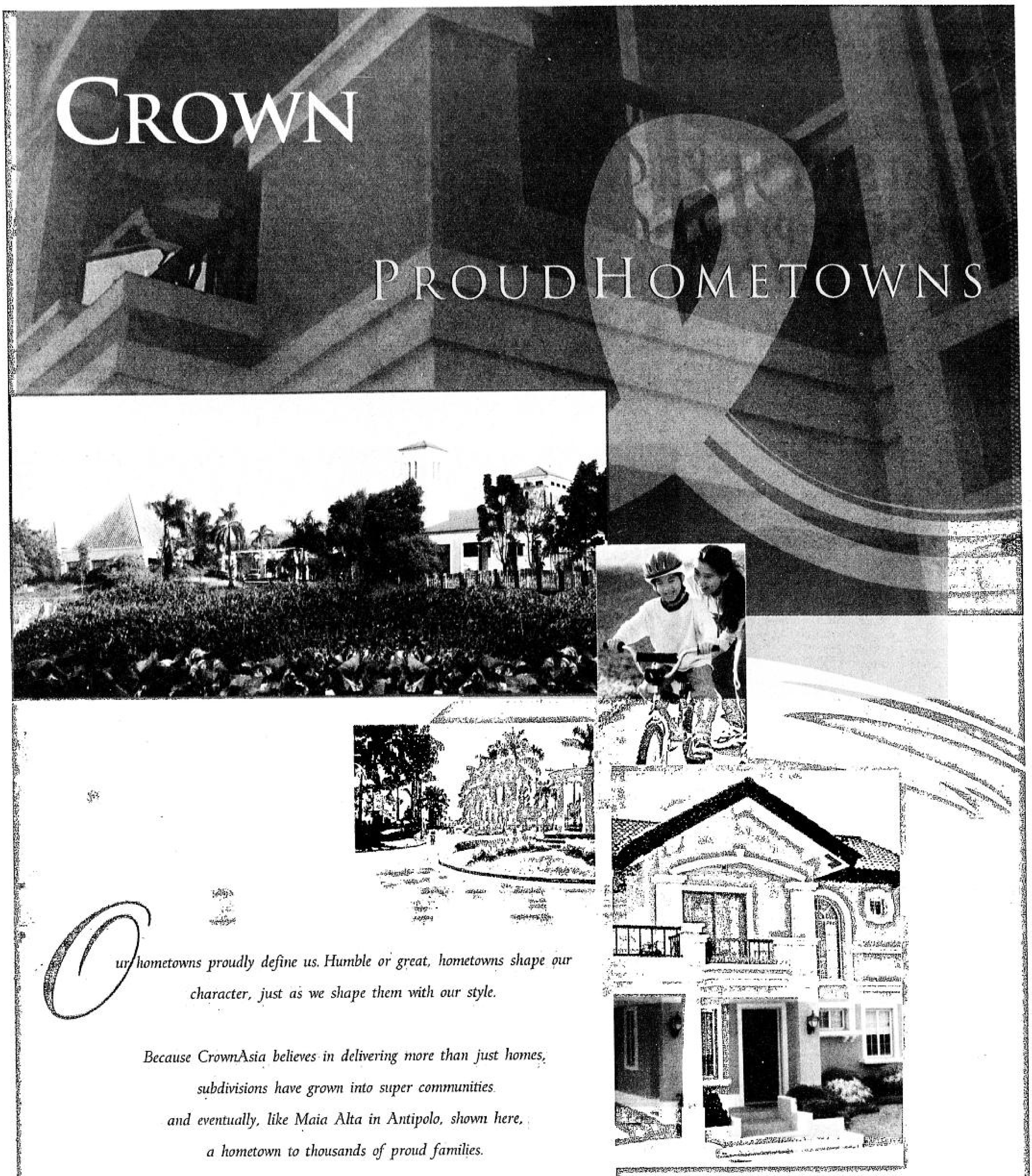

Our hometowns proudly define us. Humble or great, hometowns shape our character, just as we shape them with our style.

Because CrownAsia believes in delivering more than just homes, subdivisions have grown into super communities and eventually, like Maia Alta in Antipolo, shown here, a hometown to thousands of proud families.

South of Metro Manila, Citta Italia and Fortezza have likewise blossomed into proud hometowns. All this began when more and more home planners, North and South, happily settled for CrownAsia as their home of choice.

One can never have enough of a good thing.

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CrownAsia sets a design force to reckon with against the mountainscapes of Laguna

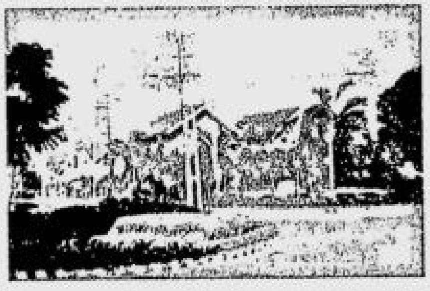
A "home of choice" to thousands of happy families deserves to be called a "proud hometown"

Business and industry bring welcome growth to the countryside like Laguna. But it's not enough to make families who need to live near where they work, happy and settled. At the end of the day, new residents look for beauty, comfort and style to come home to.

From communities to hometowns
As the country's biggest home builder, CrownAsia has held these values as development hallmarks. And this vision has been well rewarded, as hundreds have made CrownAsia their "home of choice". As the family home numbers blossom into the thousands, CrownAsia proudly takes on the responsibility of managing townships.

Fortezza. A beacon of security and high detailed style.
The lessons learned from over a decade of developing stand-out projects is lavished on Fortezza. The urban plan, the home styles, the landscaping, all deliver a sense of security and glamour which is amazingly within the buyer's financial realities. This is the "wow" factor that brings more home planners to CrownAsia.

Cabuyao's pride.
Fortezza homeowner's joy.
Everybody's welcome in Fortezza. Home packages range from the affordable to the grand in happy harmony. Soon all other communities in Cabuyao will be developed like Fortezza. This alone is an affirmation of pride, which any homeowner seeks in their choice.



"A hometown of choice"
An affirmation that they made the right choice, and that their choice is the role model in their community. And when their community blossoms into a hometown, a pride grows deep within, not just for now, but for generations to come.

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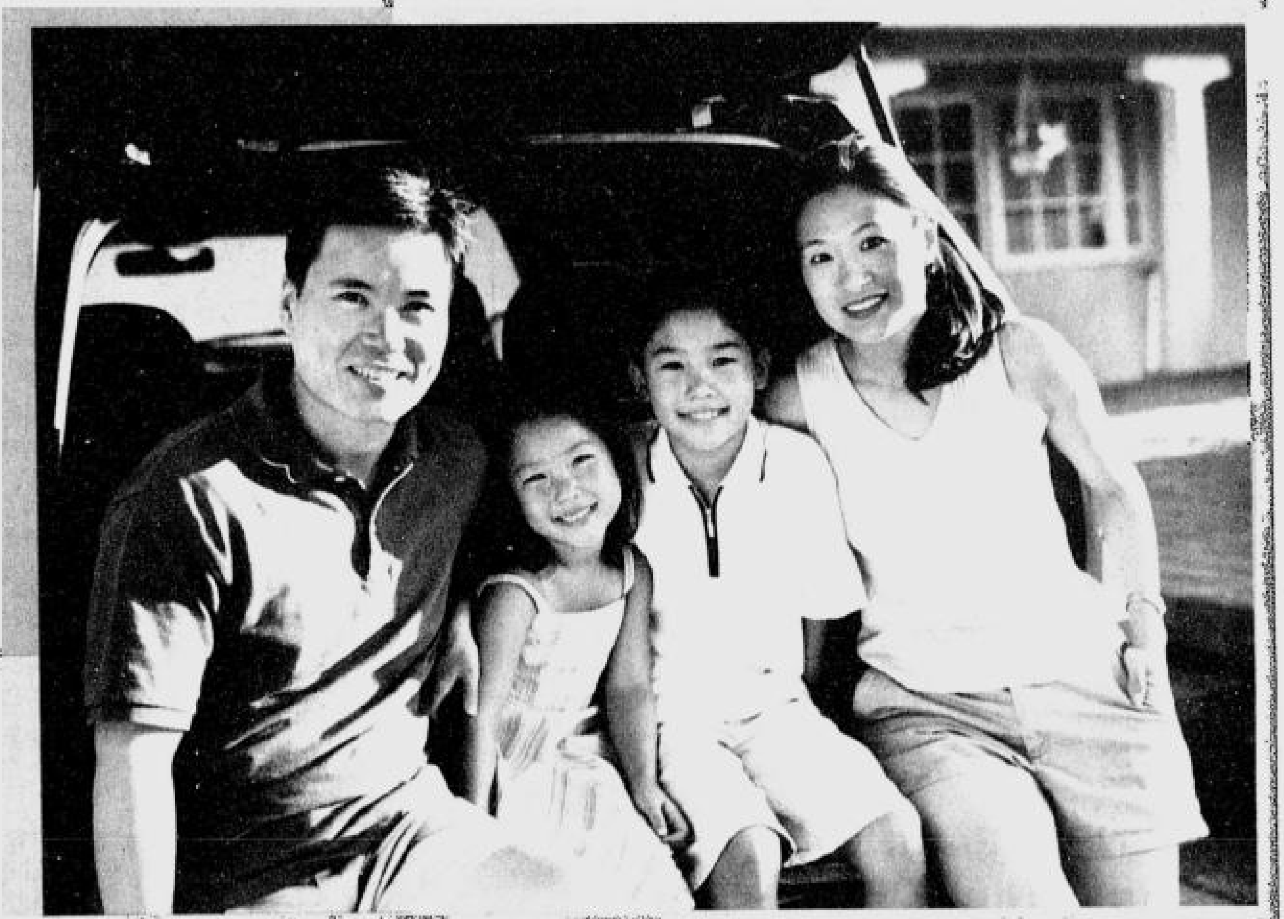

CROWN
Fortezza
CABUYAO, LAGUNA

A fortress town of value and style blossoms in Laguna

"Fortezza" in Italian means fortress and fortitude, which is what this new hometown has quickly blossomed to become from a small community.

Nestled against the dramatic Laguna mountainscapes, Fortezza, has happily become the home of choice for many professionals and family business entrepreneurs.

In fact, Fortezza has become a defining landmark, which Cabuyao now proudly claims as its very own. So it's not only new residents that take pride when CrownAsia settles in.

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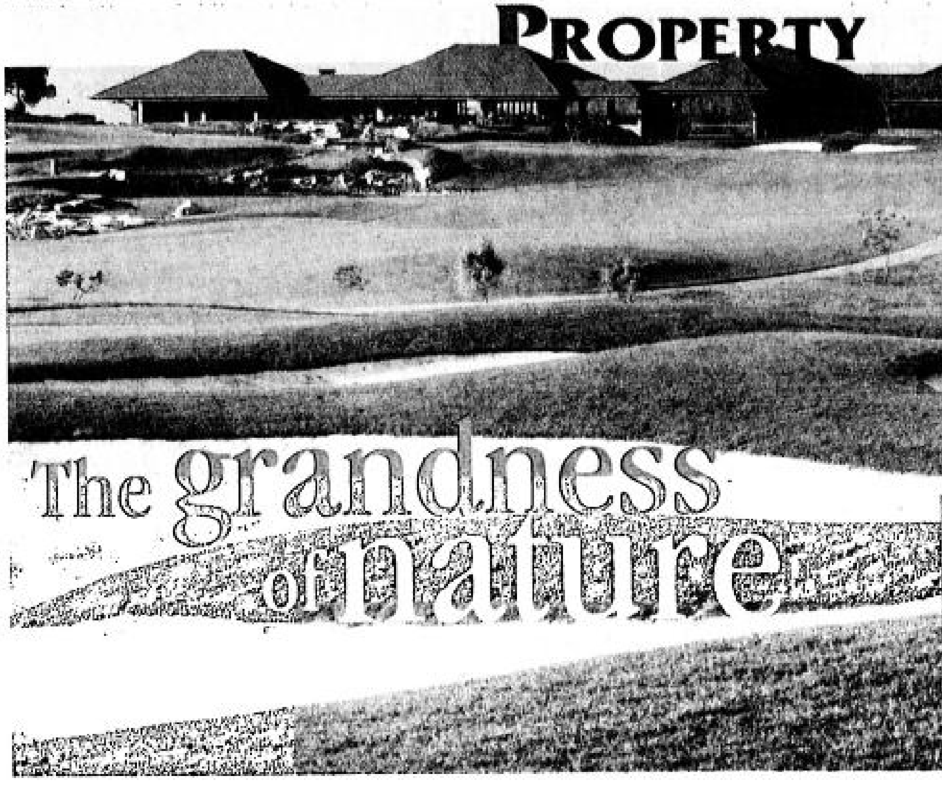
The grandness of nature



AYALA Greenfield is a verdant environment with clean mountain fresh air.

RESIDENTS of Ayala Greenfield are very close to nature and can enjoy different activities at the development's picnic huts, parks and indoor amenities.

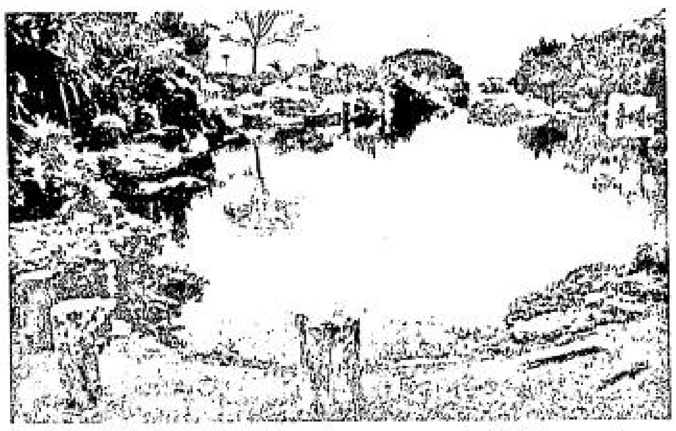
AYALA GREENFIELD, LOcated just south of Metro Manila, is a place where the bright blue sky competes with Laguna de Bay and where the lush green of the Robert Trent Jones golf course vies with the stately slopes of Mt. Makiling for attention.

A growing residential community nestled cozily in Calamba, Laguna, waking up in this environment can only mean a dream came true. The fresh breeze that turns into a mischievous wind, the sun-kissed fields stretching as far as the eye can see and the mountains a constant reminder of the grandness of nature are gifts to savor and all from the comforts of one's home.

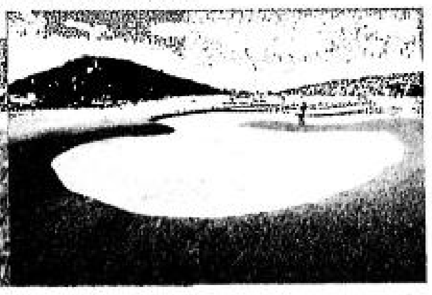
Ayala Greenfield has cleverly combined man's genius with the majesty of nature by providing a world-class golf course as well as a first-rate golf club that offers endless types of recreation amid magnificent vistas. With the endless blue of the bay on one side and the stunning slopes of Mt. Makiling on the other, one is never too far from the vibrant life of nature.

Great outdoors

Hiking and biking trails, fishing lagoons, picnic grounds abound. The swimming pools and the putting green tend to the body's relaxation while the game room, badminton, basketball and tennis courts as well as fitness centers and wellness spas return calm, vigor and energy to the human spirit. These offerings are all designed to bring one and all into harmony with the almost mystical quality of nature.



THE FISHING lagoon is a place where young and old alike can relax and savor the cool, nature-rich environment of Ayala Greenfield.



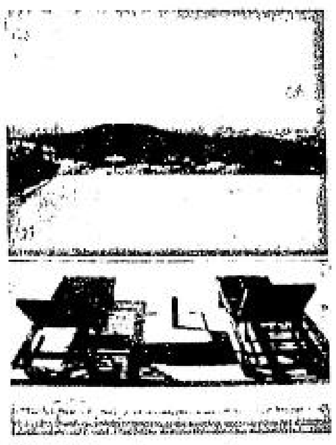
THE LUSH, thick greens of Ayala Greenfield and the majestic sight of Mt. Makiling are just some of the exciting views that Ayala Greenfield offers.

Amid the spectacular blooms, gardens and vistas as well as the cheerful call of the plentiful birds, one is soothed and comforted and the great outdoors was never better showcased.

As a prime residential community, the best gift of being a member is being a mere stone's throw away from God's gifts. Waking up to the burst of a sunrise or celebrating the beginning of an evening with the splendor of the sunset are just two testaments of the grandness of nature in Ayala Greenfield.

Good luck

Living so harmoniously with the positive energy of the surrounding environment portends an auspicious existence on this earth. Combined with the winds and waters that grace the region, these all spell good luck for the community's families and their homes.



FAMILY members can have a great time at the Ayala Greenfield Village Clubhouse infinity pool.

Through Ayala Land Premier's thoughtful and expert masterplanning, the natural beauty of the area is a welcome insulation to the frenetic activity of city living and carefully harnessed for homeowners and their families to enjoy.

Ayala Greenfield is one of the choicest, exclusive residences managed and marketed by Ayala Land Premier, the high-end business unit of Ayala Land, whose excellent brand of service and care has led to the development of innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, first-class abodes over the last few decades. It is developed by Ayala Greenfield Development Corp.

For inquiries about Ayala Greenfield, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalagreenfield-estates.com or e-mail ayalasales@ayalaland.com.ph.

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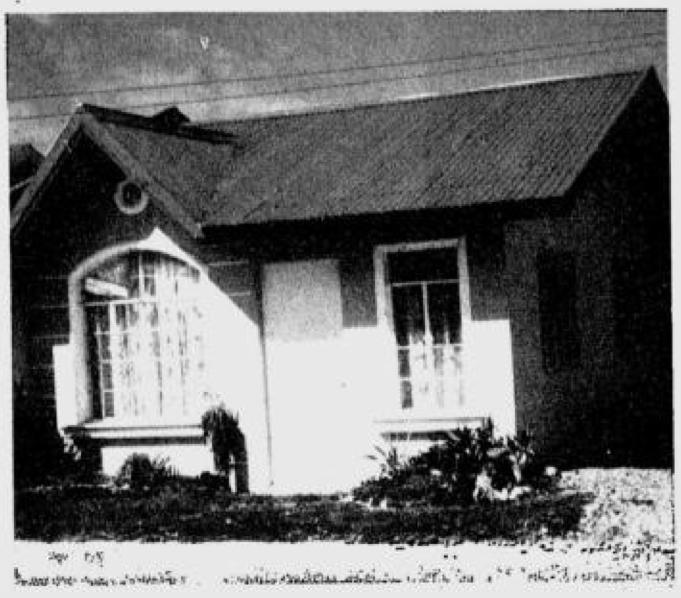

THE TWO-BEDROOM Ruby model is a single-attached unit with a 35.2-sq-m floor area.

Providing quality homes in far-off neighborhoods

By Charles E. Buban

WHILE A NUMBER of big home developers are busy investing in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, one developer has decided to venture as well as lend its expertise in developing communities in far-off locations.

"It's about time home developers turn their attention to these places. Not only can their investments help spur development in these areas, these places are also huge market waiting to be tapped," said Jesus Atencio, president of Firm Builders Realty and Development Corp.

In 2004, FBRDC has entered into a joint venture with spouses Robert and Myrna de Guzman to develop over 16 hectares of land in Maddarulug Sur, Enrile in the province of Cagayan.

"Rio del Grande Subdivision is the result of this partnership. With its development in full swing, FBRDC is able to bring its experience and building expertise to this project to come up with quality homes that are within reach of its intended market," explained Atencio.

Like a number of its projects in other locations, FBRDC decided that Rio del Grande Subdivision fall under the mass housing-type category. With a gross area of 16.41 hectares, the subdivision will give rise to some 1,052 units with lot sizes ranging from 80 to 100 square meters and with prices ranging from P310,000 to P630,000.

Attractive to buyers

What will make Rio del Grande Subdivision attractive to buyers, according to Atencio, is its location. The project, about 10 km from Tuguegarao, sits on a unique terrain that offers a panoramic view of the Cagayan River and the 1.098 km Buntun Bridge (the longest bridge in the country after San Juanico in Leyte and Samar).

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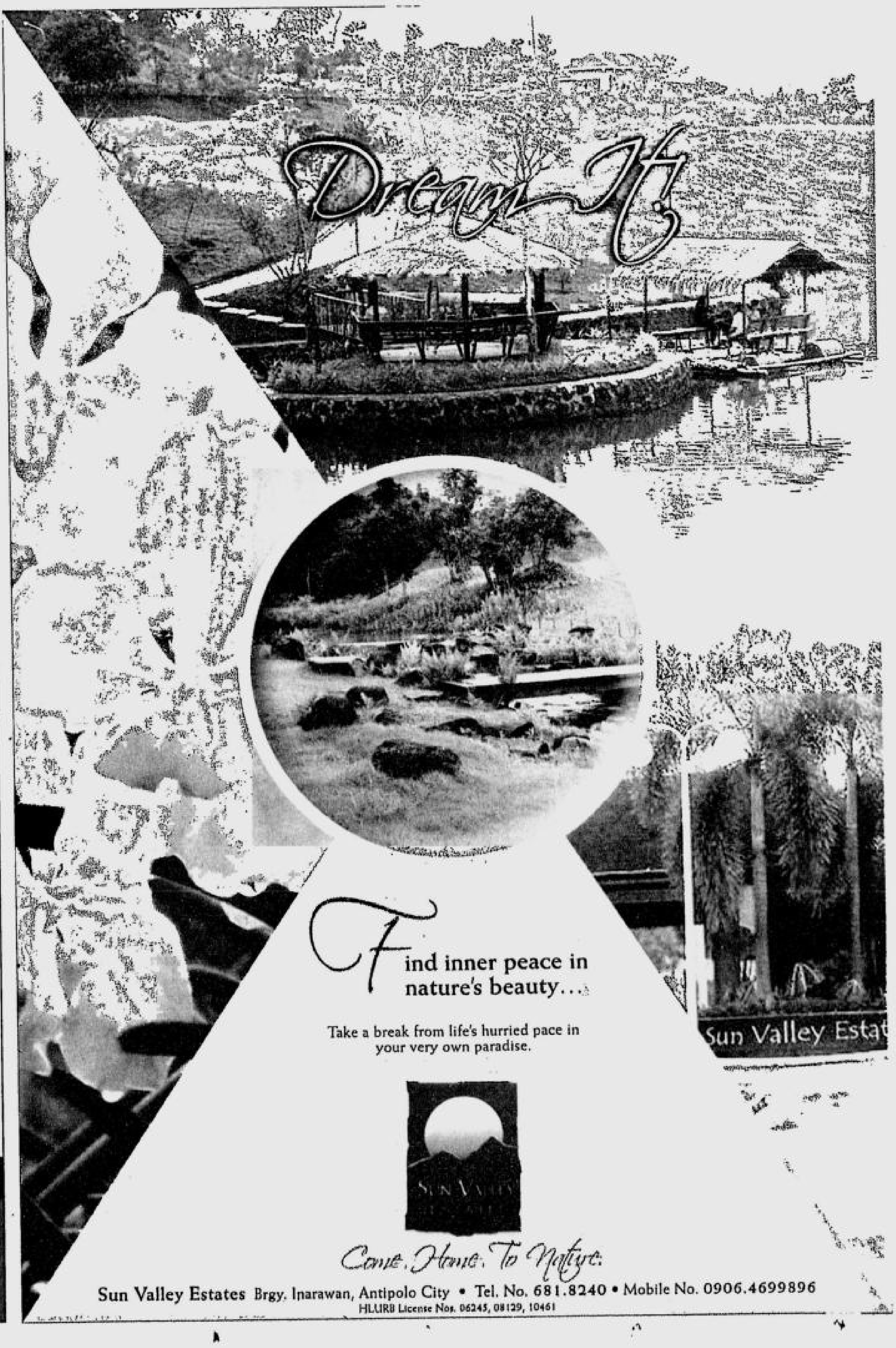

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Advancing Filipino mountain architecture

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

I DON'T WANT TO TURN MY column into a travel guide although I do travel around the country quite a lot. However, this time I chanced upon a couple of remarkable spots up north, in the adjacent towns of Lagawe, which is the capital of Ifugao province, and Kiyanan, which is the historical site of Yamashita's surrender. Though their other neighboring town, Banawe, is more popular for its rice terraces, these two towns can also boast of some interesting sights.

Finding attractive and out of the ordinary architectural structures in far-flung places like this always comes as a pleasant surprise.

Traveling north and looking for a pitstop for a decent breakfast, I saw a sign of "The Gazebo" on the main road. Following my instincts and my tummy, I found a well-planned garden restaurant, well integrated to its landscape. This oasis of sorts is owned by a young couple, Jonathan and Rowena Tocyap. They had created a simple, rustic setting, complete with soothing music and filling meals, to give customers full sensory satisfaction.

Fed and rested, I asked the couple if they knew a fine place for an overnight stay. Without hesitation, they directed us to the house of Rowena's sister that is on a nearby hill overlooking the Ibalao river.

Ifugao craftsmanship

The house is built on limestone rocks that were integrated into the design. Glass doors and windows allow a wonderful view of the surrounding plains and the river. The main door, as well as inner doors are intricately carved, thick panels of wood that highlight Ifugao craftsmanship. Local baskets, carvings and woven cloths are tastefully placed in the rooms.

Beds and seating are built into the rocks, thus maximizing use of space as well as a proper integration of forms. The use of rough-hewn wood lends the feel of a cozy mountain cabin. This fascinating retreat is the residence of the Doctors Toto and Tess Kalugdan. Being very much involved in promoting tourism in their province, they decided to allow visitors to share the comfort and beauty of their home:

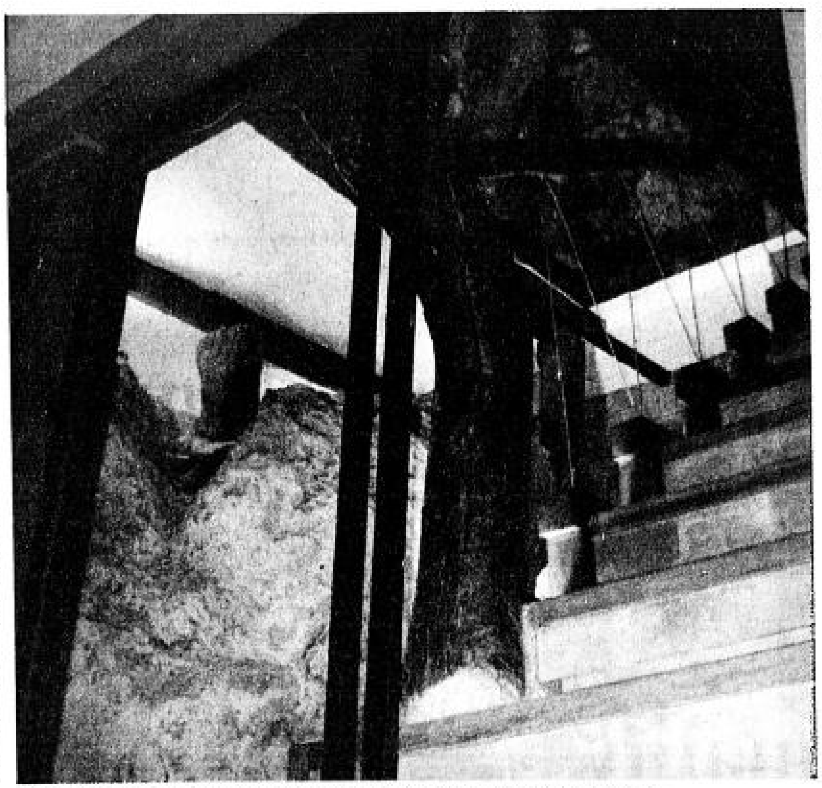
Mountain architecture

Filipino mountain architecture has that rustic, cozy ambience to it. The use of pine and other natural wood is prevalent. Building on rock and over rolling terrain is often a must. Decorating with tribal crafts is common. But creating something new and extraordinary out of all these givens is what makes a structure stand out. The Kalugdans' home is one of the standouts.

All those who support and advance Filipino designs deserve a second look. We need more of these concepts in every region in the country to highlight the local talents in the respective communities. The Ifugaos are known for their wood carvings. The Bicolanos take pride in their weaves. The people of Zamboanga do great metalwork. All we need are people who could appreciate and showcase these skills and find diversified uses and applications for them.

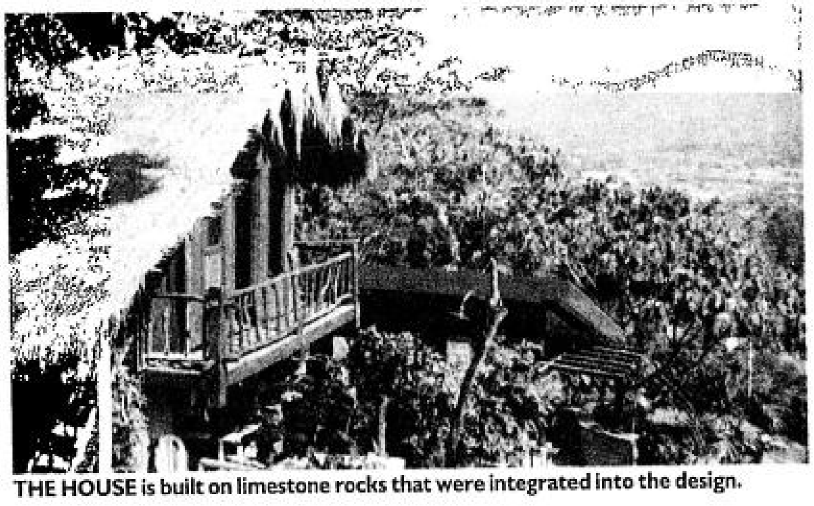
It ought to be a matter of pride for us to use these local art objects in adorning our own homes and offices. I just wish that there could be institutions to help our craftsmen promote their creations here and abroad. I hope that they will to be able to pass on their skills to the next generation of Filipinos. Because if not, an important part of the true Filipino will be be driven to extinction.

Promoting Filipino architecture and crafts is not just a matter of pride. It should be a survival instinct.



ORIGINAL rock formation were exposed to form part of the feature.

IBALAO Rooms and Inn shows the cottage which make use of recycled wood.



THE HOUSE is built on limestone rocks that were integrated into the design.

THE CHARM of old houses and Ifugao craftsmanship accentuates the entrance foyer of the inn.

A SPECIAL SUBSECTION OF THE Sunday LIFESTYLE ON HOMES PUBLISHED MONTHLY
SECOND ISSUE: APRIL 23, 2006

at HOME
SMALL SPACES

Living Large in Small Spaces
All it takes is imagination to maximize the miniature
By Arnel Patawaran

My Secret Pocket Garden
Who says you can't have the luxury of having greenery if your home is short on space?
By Chelo Banal-Formoso, Lifestyle editor

Garden Designs for All Seasons
Lush landscapes, pocket gardens, gazebos, etc.

Condo Living
A pictorial on the interiors of a one-bedroom condominium unit (Shang Tower)
By Alex Vergara

Space-saving Appliances
Sourcing the must-haves if you want to live comfortably in cramped surroundings

Home Rescue Column
Ronald Puno

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Boysen helps build new Peta home

BOYSEN RECENTLY HELPED BUILD THE THEATER CENTER OF THE Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) in Quezon City.

Gloriosa Cabangon. National Artist for Literature Alejandro Roces and luminaries from Peta's international and local partners such as DuPont were also at the event to witness another milestone in Peta's history.

The Peta Theater Center is a visual attraction with its concave façade, an articulated canopy and glass exteriors. Inside the four-story theater center are functional spaces used as theater, library, exhibition hall, and studios.

The modern minimalist design approach is contrasted by the bright Peta red paint specially made by Boysen for the organization. The combination of subdued design and intense red color reflects the vivid imagination and passion of Peta and its guest users.

Major facelift of AUFMC OR complex

THE ANGELES UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION MEDICAL CENTER IN Angeles City has taken undertaken the renovation and modernization of its operating room (OR) complex.

AUFMC president and CEO Dr. Emmanuel Y. Angeles said the renovation of the OR complex reached a total of P50 million.

He said AUFMC's continuing improvement is made possible through donations from benefactors here and abroad. Later last year, AUFMC received a donation of P5 million from Jack Lam, chair of the Jimei Group of Companies which manages Fontana Leisure Park located inside Clark Special Economic Zone. All donations to AUFMC are tax deductible by virtue of its accreditation by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification.

Providing quality . . .

From page B3-1

"I believe developers should invest more on this segment. Investing in a low-cost housing development would not only meet the needs of the local people, but also set an example for other investors," said Atencio.

At present, FBRDC has seven ongoing projects covering the development of about 43 hectares of land and the construction of about 3,400 housing units mostly in the Visayas and Mindanao.

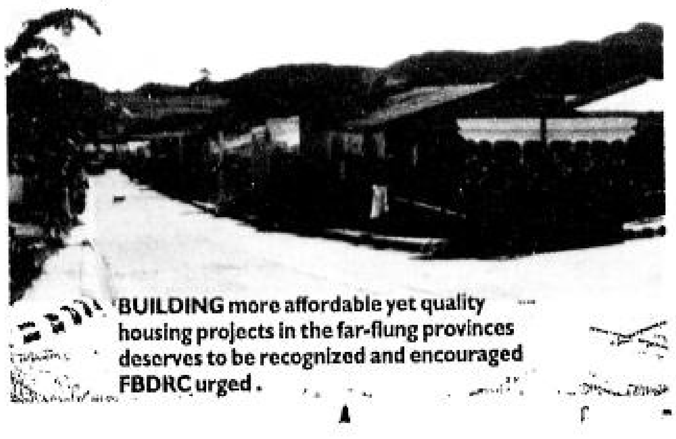
Atencio said the subdivision will offer core single-attached type of units for those falling under socialized category, and one- or two-bedroom, single-attached type of units for those falling under the low-cost category.

"Affordable housing is a national issue, primarily because of millions of Filipinos living below the poverty line that is also affecting many middle-income households. Unless we generate affordable housing in new areas, we will not only aggravate our housing backlog but also traffic and our substandard housing problems," explained Atencio.

The country's housing backlog is currently at 4.2 million.

The FBRDC is the flagship company of Firm Builders Group of Companies.

Together with its other affiliates (that also include Tierra Minerva Properties Development Corp., Guimaras Realty Inc. and Southern Flagship Realty Inc.), the Group has successfully completed the development of 24 mixed-use housing subdivisions or a total of 11,000 housing units in the Visayas and Mindanao, covering an aggregate area of 256 hectares, or over a span of 14 years.

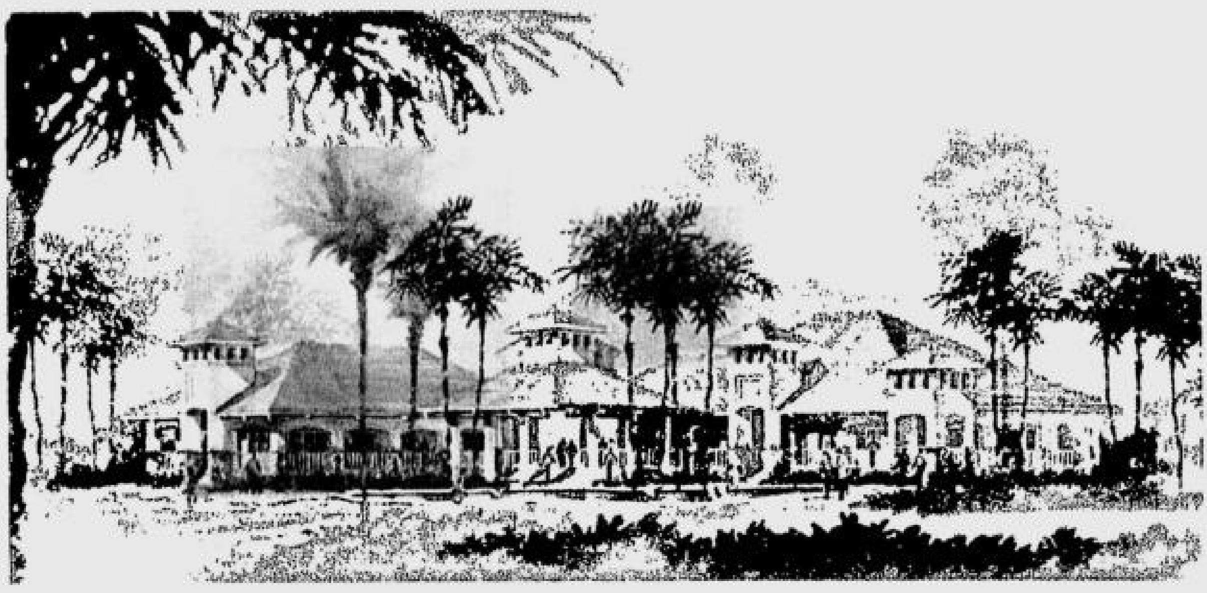


BUILDING more affordable yet quality housing projects in the far-flung provinces deserves to be recognized and encouraged FBDRC urged.

The Islands: lifescape of island-themed leisure

BRITTANY CORP., WITH ITS MAVERICK's track record of building high-end, master-planned and theme-inspired communities that each becomes a "lifescape"—a total environment for luxury living that elevates residents' enjoyment of life to a new level—adds the fast-paced development of The Islands to its distinguished roster of projects.

Strategically located on 130 hectares of prime, expansive spaces bound by the Molino-Paliparan Highway and Governor's Drive in Dasmariñas, Cavite, The Islands is a collection of comfortable enclaves, each inspired by one of the world's best island communities. The big idea, the vision behind The Islands, is to offer a playful, leisurely way of life in a breezy, sunny, year-round paradise, where summer waxes perpetual, surrounded by the vast outdoors under great blue skies, where children play in safety and residents live in relaxed contentment.



AN ARTIST'S rendition of Club Island, a country club boasting of first-class leisure facilities set in the heart of The Islands.

5 enclaves

The Islands is composed at present of five enclaves, each with its own distinctive, island-inspired theme:

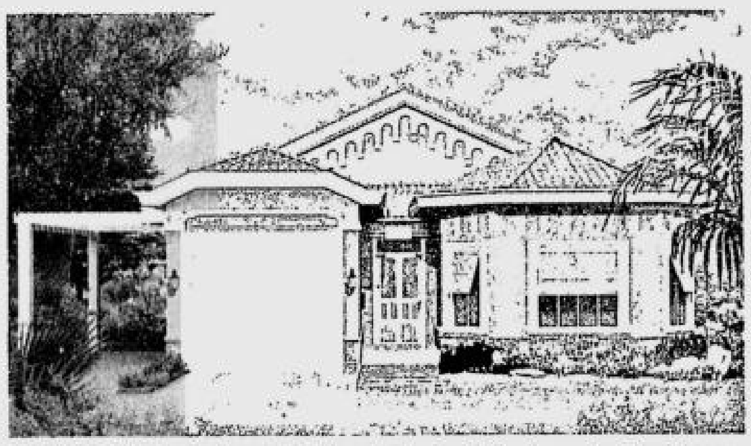
- **Ibiza.** Reflective of its namesake, Ibiza is a Mediterranean-inspired estate, now completed and all sold out. One of the bigger enclaves of The Islands, Ibiza has custom home sites with lot areas starting at 400 sq m.
- **Island Park.** A resort-inspired enclave, Island Park is another completed project with home and lot packages as well as custom home sites.
- **Montego.** A Caribbean-inspired retreat, one of Montego's highlights—apart from the tastefully applied influences from the colorful region from which its theme derives—is its premium on privacy and exclusivity.

Underscoring its continuous development, The Islands recently launched two new enclaves, namely Caribé and Amalfi, further enriching the variety in interpretations of leisurely, island-inspired living, while enhancing property values with their quality.

- **Caribé.** The Islands' latest offering, Caribé is intended for a select market of residents who want to maximize their enjoyment of life after having carved out successful careers. Caribé is a milestone in the development of homes for such a discriminating market, because it is the first enclave of its kind to offer home designs that are all sprawling and single-story.

The designs are inspired by classic Florida homes in which exuberant Caribbean influences are combined with sophistication and urbanity, bringing the best of two worlds together. Caribé home designs feature an open floor plan, a great room and wide verandas. Custom home sites along with home and lot packages are now available.

- **Amalfi.** Developed by Brittany Corp.'s sister company Crown Asia, Amalfi draws its thematic influences from the warm, leisure resorts of its namesake in Italy. It offers a range of home and lot packages that are perfect for families big or small.



AS THE LATEST offering at The Islands, the Caribé features the Guadeloupe as its first single story model home.

Club Island

As part of the master-planning for The Islands, amenities will include Club Island, the country club which will be conveniently located in the heart of the community. Club Island will boast must-have leisure facilities in a spectacular tropical setting, such as a free-form pool interspersed with cabanas.

Tropical gardens, butterfly sanctuaries and palm trees will surround the clubhouse. The grand ballroom will comfortably accommodate 300 persons. Club Island will be the embodiment of The Islands' vision of playful leisure. Soon to be offered are memberships that will pave the way for future homeowners to enjoy the island-style, country club life.

Guided by careful master-planning that thoughtfully anticipates residents' needs and wants so that they will enjoy a lifescape of comfortable, playful leisure, The Islands and its enclaves are quickly becoming a reality. The continuous unfolding of the vision driving The Islands will soon reach full potential, and is something that residents will be proud of. For a property preview of The Islands, in particular Caribé, its latest offering, call 850-3084 and 850-2868, or visit www. brittany.com.ph.

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Privileged living inside The Manors

IN-CITY LIVING, WHICH SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATES the amenities and ambience associated only with today's famous out-of-town leisure spots into the calming comforts of home, has quickly caught fire among young couples and upwardly mobile professionals.

Now, DMCI Homes, one of the chief exponents and builders of these resort-residential communities, is expanding the modern concept of this type of development with the upcoming unveiling of The Manors at Celebrity Place, a seven-building, mid-rise condominium complex inside the Celebrity Place compound in Balara, Quezon City.

Built-in membership

Not only is the renowned developer offering a built-in membership in Celebrity Sports Club, the centerpiece structure on the compound, for every home unit at The Manors. It is, in a significant way, giving added value to the already ideal location of the latest in DMCI Homes' series of developments in a resort-type setting.

The Manors, which is located near the nation's premier business and commercial districts, rises within distance of a belt of top universities and exclusive schools like University of the Philippines in Diliman, Ateneo de Manila, Mirriam College, Philippine Science High School, New Era College and Kostka School.

The Manors is near such posh residential villages like La Vista, Tierra Pura, Xavierville and Ayala Hillside Estate. This gives added prestige to the project set to be launched today at 4 p.m. at the grand ballroom of the Celebrity Place. (Interested parties may call 888-3333 to confirm their attendance.)

Another major strength of The Manors will come from the existing world-caliber facilities of the adjacent Celebrity Sports Club which has had hosted a string of international sports competitions, notably in swimming and bowling.

Fit for everyone

The Manors has everything for everyone.

For fitness and health buffs, there's an Olympic-size swimming pool, basketball court, covered tennis courts, badminton courts, archery range, fitness gym, bowling and billiards center. There are splash pools and water slides for those enamored of themed parks.

For those who derive a high from the swirl of social things or who enjoy being pampered, the club has a grand ballroom, function halls, fine dining restaurants, bistros, spa/sauna, beauty salon and relaxation lounge.

Its overall design gives weight and emphasis on functional structural details such as balconies for some units, roof decks for top floor units and color schemes that are at once subdued and classy.

The Manors offers two to three bedroom condo units with prices ranging from P4.3 million to P5.2 million.

With everything it has to offer, living at The Manors becomes a privilege.

ARTIST'S rendition of The Manors' Portchester Building

AIM ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
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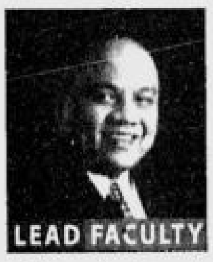
Schedule: May 22 - 26, 2006

COURSE OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES:
A five-day program that brings together key leaders of the Philippine Real Estate Industry to:
• Present current trends and prospects in the Philippine Real Estate Industry; and
• Provide participants with a workable framework for identifying, screening and evaluating entrepreneurial opportunities in the Philippine real estate industry.

COURSE COVERAGE:
a. Business prospects in various real estate products: residential, commercial, retail, leisure, farms, memorial parks, hotels and others
b. Business prospects in real estate services: planning, project management, marketing and sales, leasing, and property management
c. Business arising from bank acquired assets
d. Development of analytical frameworks to help scan, assess and implement identified opportunities in the Philippine real estate industry

COURSE CONTENT:
• External Assessment / Industry Analysis
  • Framework on Opportunity Seeking, Screening & Assessment
    • Framework for Strategizing
• Micro Market Analysis
• Opportunities in the Various Real Estate Industry Sub-Sectors
  • Residential
  • Office and Commercial
  • Shopping Center
  • Leisure, Resort and Farm
  • Memorial Parks
  • Hotel
• Opportunities in Real Estate Services:
  • Master Planning and Design
  • Contracting
  • Sales and Marketing
  • Property Management
  • Financial Packaging and Investments in Property Projects

The faculty for this course, which is participated in by key industry players, is led by Professor Danilo A. Antonio, a current member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship [ACE] core faculty as a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship [ME] Program.



LEAD FACULTY

Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives under the Master in Business Administration Program.

Prof. Antonio remains active in various business endeavors, particularly in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He is CEO and founder of LAND-EXCEL Consulting, CEO of Phoenix Land Inc., developer of Las Haciendas Resort Farms, CEO of Excelsis Land, developer of Desta & Madison South residential villages and Chairman of Canyon Woods Resort Club.

Prof. Antonio holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management (1978) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University (1974).

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3 home designs for Mt. Malarayat Residential Estates

LEADING REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER Active Group recently unveiled three types of home designs for the Mount Malarayat Residential Estates—Arianna, Gabrielle and Micaela.

House and lot packages are priced starting from about P8 million.

Contemporary Spanish

Planned for a 422-square-meter lot area, the Arianna follows the elegant lines of contemporary Spanish-style architecture with warm earth tones such as beige and brown.

Spread across a 368 sq-m floor area is an upscale home of plush interior space that incorporates a grand staircase, a formal entry foyer, a living room with a high volume ceiling, a wide gourmet kitchen with an island counter top, a pantry and a powder room. Five master suites occupy the second floor and offer a commanding view of the nearby fishing lake and golf course.

The Arianna also includes a three-car closed garage with an open area for one more car, ample garage storage room, front yard landscaping, a laundry area, a maid's room and a driver's room.

Mediterranean

Envisioned for a 414 sq-m lot, Gabrielle's pronounced columns, geometric windows, expansive sliding glass doors, clay-tile roof, wooden brackets and accent mid-roofs over the lanais show a contemporary Mediterranean inspiration. A textured finish in a warm, vibrant color palette washes the façade. Inside, the four luxurious suites feature their own standard appointments such as large bedrooms, lavish master baths, vanities, dressing areas, and walk-in closets.

Other features are an ornate staircase adjacent to the formal living room, kitchen with storage pantry, a driver's room, a maid's room and an outdoor laundry area. In all, the Gabrielle occupies a 326 sq-m floor area.

American Georgian

The Micaela fits just right for a 319 sq-m lot and presents a delightful throwback to the American Georgian style. The broad frontal gable shows a large window to follow the sensibility of design inspiration. The grooved exterior walls, emulating the shingle construction, are also a visual reference to a classic feature of the traditional design.

This contemporary home, occupying a 205 sq-m floor area, has three spacious bedrooms—all with their own walk-in closets and bathrooms. The outstanding feature is the view to the fishing lake from the kitchen, dining room and one bedroom on the second floor.

Outside, manicured rotundas offer a genteel and refreshing welcome to homeowners and visitors alike. Generous open parks in every block provide pockets of greenery and inviting sanctuaries where one can relax and unwind.

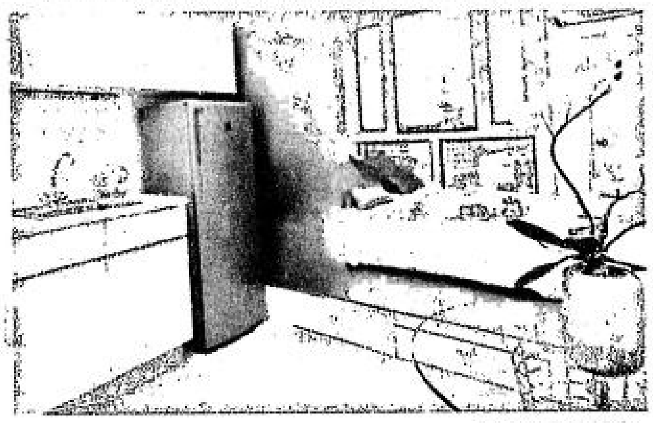
Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club and Residential Estates is in Lipa City, Batangas. It is easily accessible via South Luzon Expressway (Slex) in Laguna and the new Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star) in Batangas. For property previews, please e-mail sales@activegroup.com.ph or visit www.malarayat.com or www.activegroup.com.ph.

GABRIELLE

MEZZA RESIDENCES: GET A TASTE OF THE GOOD LIFE

From the country's most respected names in retailing and mall development comes a project that's soon to be a by-word in condominium living—the Mezza Residences.

Situated at Aurora Boulevard corner Araneta and Guirayan Streets in the heart of Quezon City, the impressive Mezza Residences has four 38-storey residential towers. Offering one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom, and suite units with introductory prices ranging from one to five million, Mezza Residences is suited for young professionals yearning for their first taste of independence or starting-out families seeking a place to call home.



1-Bedroom Unit

"Mezza Residences is metropolis living at its most convenient," shares Julie Jalandoni, Assistant Vice President for Sales and Marketing of SM Development Corporation (SMDC). "Everything one can ever need is right here, thus saving on gas, energy, and precious time. We really had the lifestyle of today's urbanites in mind in developing this project – addressing as many of their living requirements."

Each tower has three high-speed elevators and ample parking. There is a main lobby in each tower and a welcome lobby on each floor as well. An individual laundry drying area for each unit and a centralized garbage collection and disposal system are provided for added convenience.

Supported by the SM Group of Companies and Banco de Oro, Mezza Residences allows you to enjoy a wide variety of activities all under one roof. Cafes, service, and retail establishments are conveniently located at the podium at the ground and second level.

"Everyone can go home and do all their shopping right here. Young urbanites can dine out and have a good time with their friends," adds Jalandoni. "Mezza truly finds its hallmark on convenience. But more than just that, SMDC puts this together in a great package with well-planned floor areas and generous open spaces."

Mezza Residences takes pride in its lush greens. Unique to this project is its sprawling 1,000 square meter lawn—an inviting place where families can have a picnic, play catch with the kids,or take an afternoon nap.

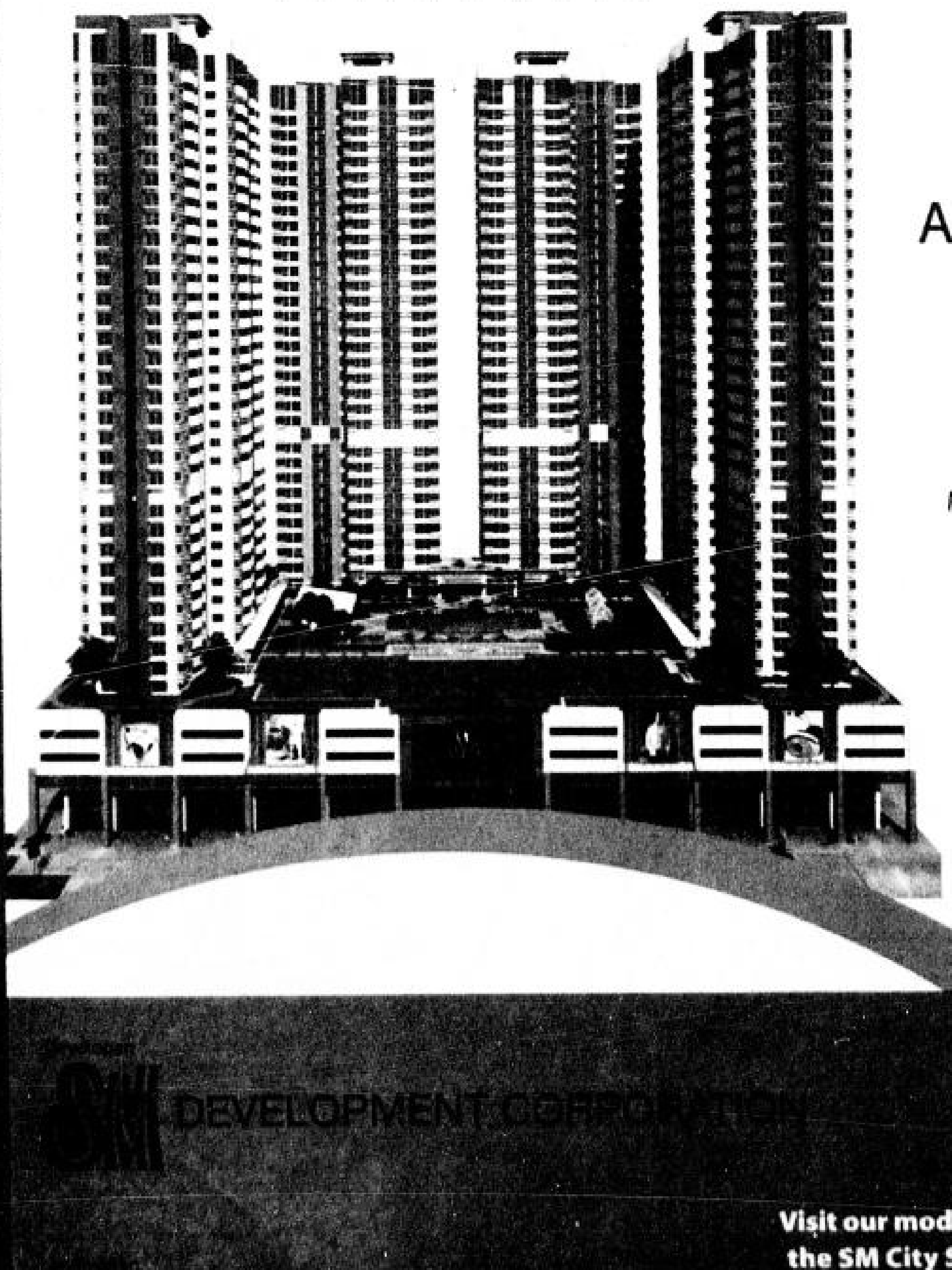
3-Bedroom Unit

Giving importance to healthy living, a Zen-inspired garden with a meditation area and a reflexology path relaxes the mind and spirit of the weariest urban dweller. Kids can soak up the sun in the kiddie pool while adults can stay fit by swimming in the 25-meter lap pool.

Here at Mezza Residences, it's all about living the city life to the fullest.

It is a short distance away from the Central Colleges of the Philippines, the Immaculate Heart of Mary College, the UERM Hospital, the UERM Memorial Medical Center, the LRT 2 Sta. Mesa Station, and the bustling Araneta area. Everything indeed is within your reach. The Mezza Residences is a project of the SMDC. For inquiries, call 831-51-51 or 0918-888-1203. Log on to the SMDC website at www.smdevelopment.com. Model units are available for viewing at the SM City Sta. Mesa.

mezza
RESIDENCES



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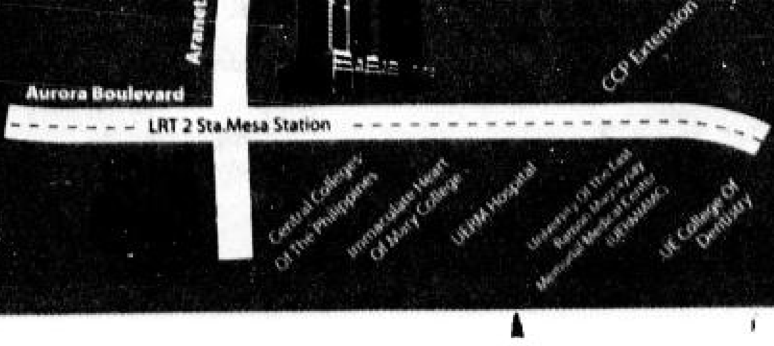

P50,000 and more at stake in Panibagong Paraan 2006's Photo Contest with the theme "Development with Equity." Hurry, contest ends May 8, 2006!

Visit www.panibagongparaan.com for contest guidelines.

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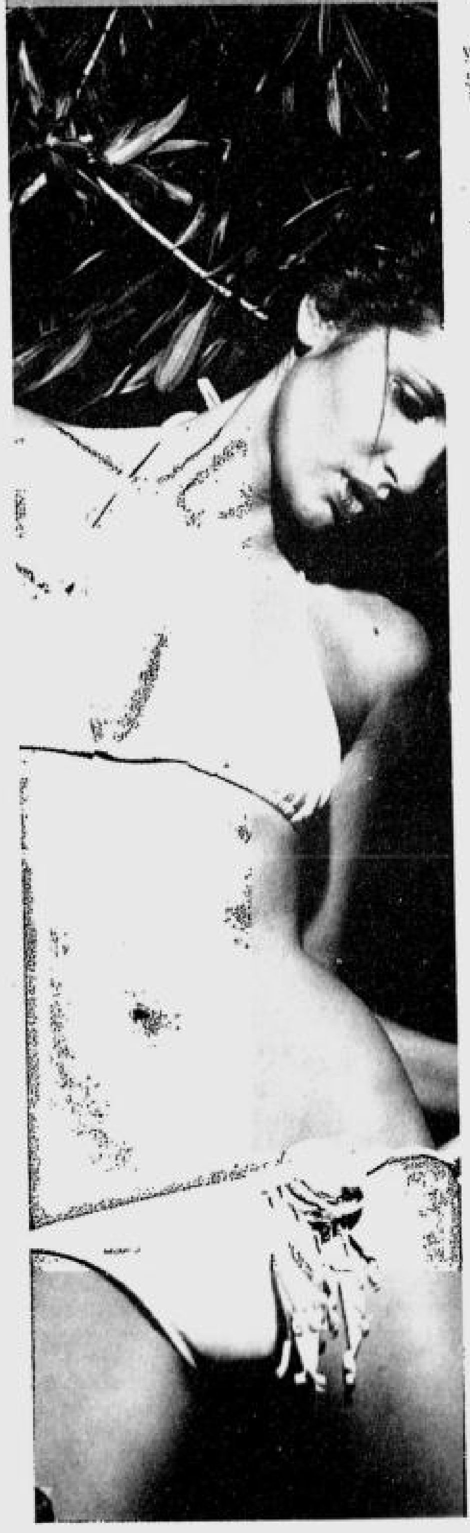
Tals Diaz and her page C2 love affair with Boracay

Meet MTV's mobster page E2

Super! remembers page E1 Mel Vergel de Dios



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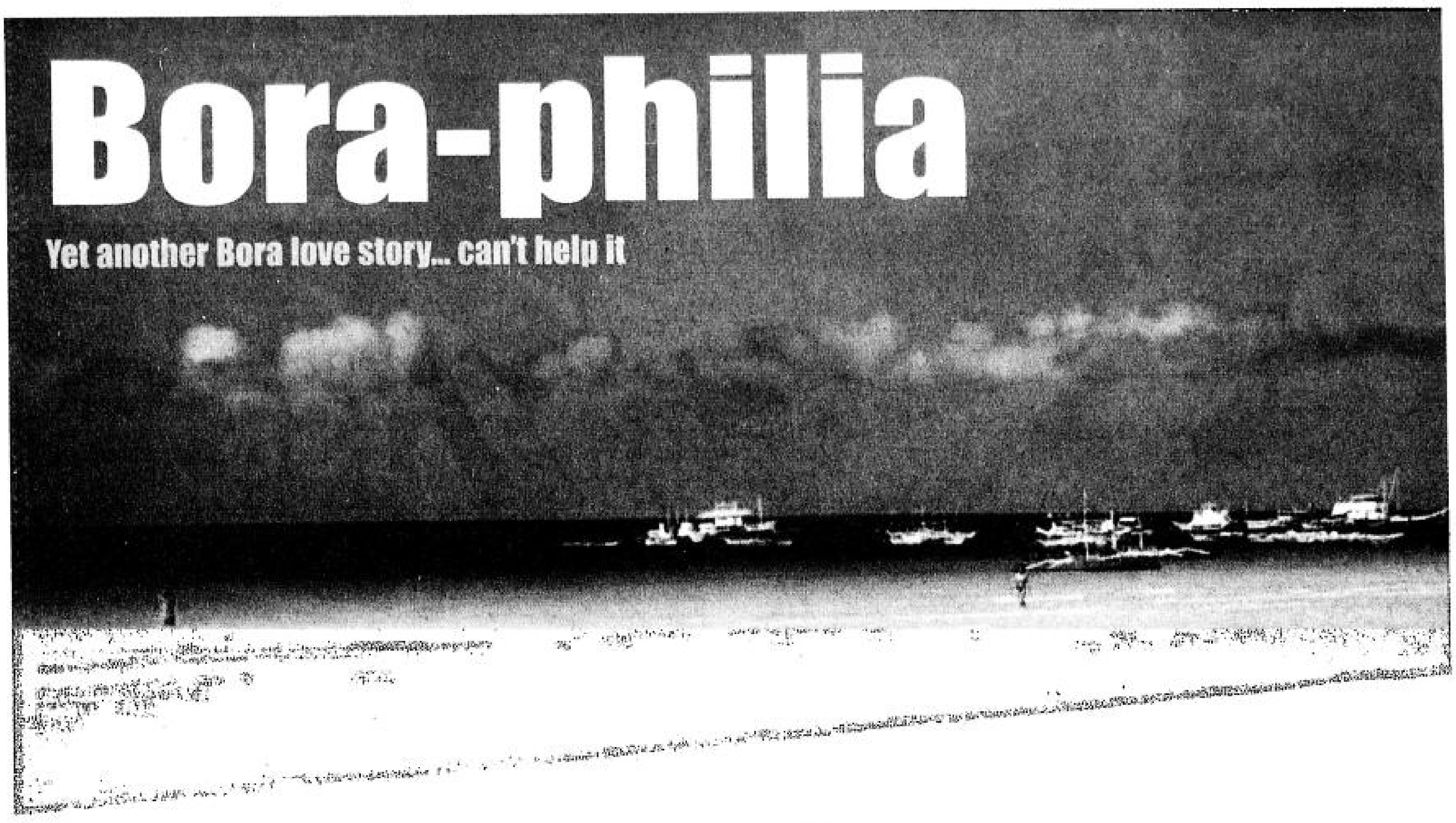


ON A RECENT PRESS JUNKET TO BORACAY, A fellow media junketeer had asked me how long I had been on the island. My unflappable companion and co-columnist Gino de la Paz had jokingly volunteered my answer, replying, "since 1997."

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

It wasn't true, of course, though in the vast ocean of my imagination, I had been in Boracay a lot longer than that. Since I had arrived there for the first time many years ago, I don't think I ever really left it.

Who ever forgets their first time stepping foot on Boracay? I came to the island long ago with a few close friends, arriving at nighttime. When I jumped off the boat, my feet sank into sand so soft it felt like I was stepping right through pure cloudstuff. I looked up at the vast sky, pinpricked by thousands of stars, and was so overwhelmed by the beauty that I actually knelt down and kissed the sand. Then I woke up the next morning, and stared, stupefied, at the view of the clearest blue sky meeting a mirror sea of shifting colors of turquoise and aquamarine.

We stayed in a hut that stood alone amidst stretches of blinding white sand before the next thatched structure. Little things like ice were such rare commodities that we'd have to walk so far away just to get it, and by the time we got back to our place, the ice had already melted into the plastic bag. These were the mundane, happy little problems we had back then, in the innocent days of paradise.

Sunset worship

In the afternoons, I would walk far into the cool waters, towards the line formed by the sky meeting sea. The water was so clear I could watch the small fish swim playfully around my feet. Immersed in the water, I'd wait for my favorite time of the day. Sunset.

It was the daily ritual on the island. People halted in their steps, and turn their heads towards the setting sun. Even the children, seemingly oblivious just minutes before playing in their sand pools, would stop and stare in silence to honor what in their hearts knew was something far greater than themselves. Something so sacred and powerful and good. In that twilight, I'd watch the sun melt into the liquid sapphire, and witness, in those few, fleeting minutes, the sky and sea merge. More than paradise found, I had found my home.

And so I kept coming back, throughout the years, so often in fact, that many times I've been mistaken for a local, or rather, a transplanted Manileña (I could only wish). I knew that I had been going there far beyond the normal frequency for a Manila-based city slicker when I started getting birthday and holiday text greetings from some of the boatmen and the local Bora kids. (A not to mention I've kept some running tabs on a few of the bars there.) Happy days are made of mocha rhum shakes (with double shots), kaleidoscopic happy-hour sunsets at Cafe del Mar, chilling at Aria, fire zipping at Hey Jude, jamming with the locals to "One Love," wharfing Chori burgers, basking in the moonrise, and finding secret spaces on the many other sides of the island. This composes the eternal summer in my mind.

Progress in Paradiso

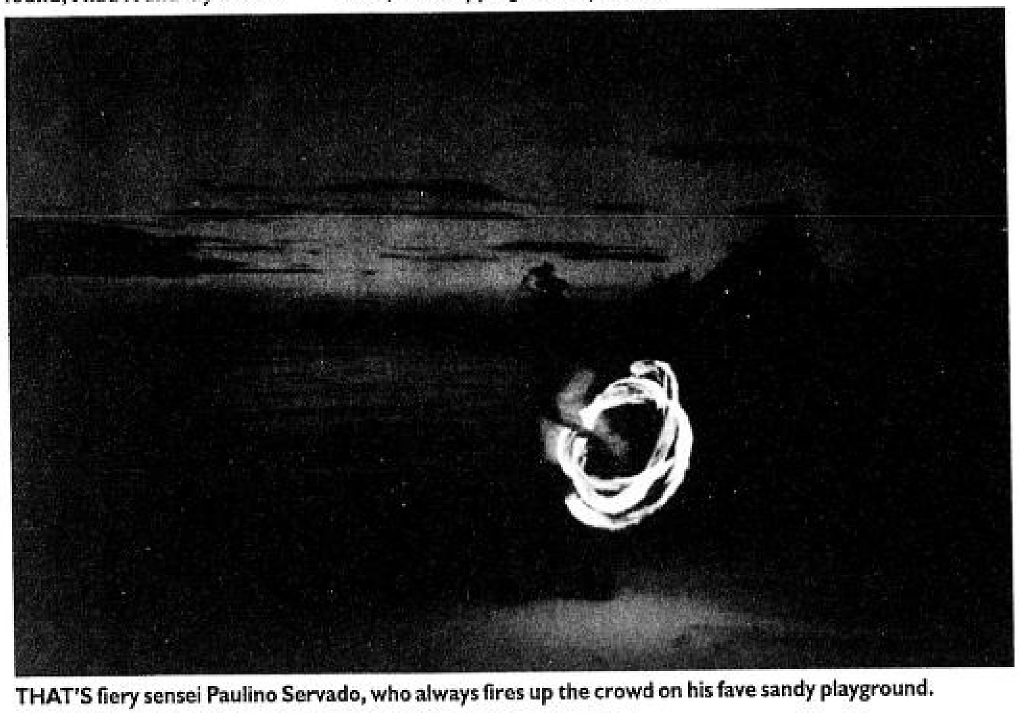
The Boracay today is very different, and it's a tale of progress oft told and retold. Sprouting on White Beach over the years are restaurants and bars and dive shops, resorts and neon-lit concrete palaces with swimming pools, malls and yes, even a small, pastel-colored ferris wheel at the center of a pavillon of commercial establishments. Tourists of all skin colors traverse the sandy causeway, some females in their high heels, and many armed with cell phones in order to track each other's whereabouts on the island. I wasn't there last Holy Week, but I heard that there were 50? no, 80 *thousand* holiday revelers in Boracay that week. *Homaygad.*

Will progress in paradise ultimately spell its demise? I've heard the scuttlebutt, that it can no longer sustain its growth, that the beach front waters are a giant petri dish of coliform, that it's fated to go the way of Atlantis in a few decades. What do I think? Well, that is entirely up to us.

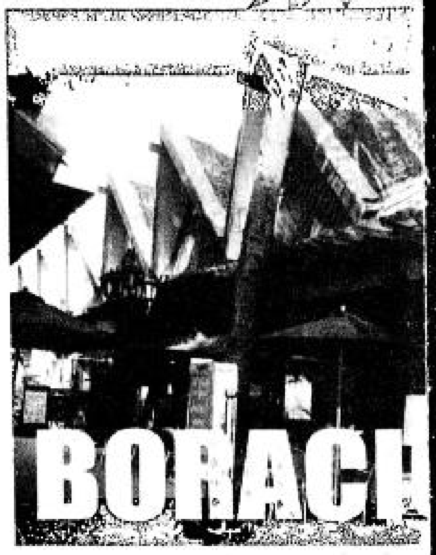
Progress in paradise can be a good thing, as long as the powers-that-be realize the massive (but honorable) responsibility on their hands. Boracay should not be seen as merely a profitable venture, but a heritage to be proud of. So if I may present my modest proposal, I'd ask that the lucky ones who have the money, the influence or degree of sovereignty in the island to keep nurturing that mystical connection with it, to never forget that first time, that first step on sand that seemed as if it were from a reverie.

And I'd say this should go for every individual visiting the island as well—to be in touch with that profound sense of beauty that you would never be a cause for destruction, no matter how tiny the action. If you really love Boracay, don't trash it, don't ditch cigarette butts and beer bottles on the sand, and most especially, chuck that indifferent, poser city attitude. Because for me, the first step towards destruction, the first disconnected link in the chain, is a mindset that one is separate from nature, not realizing that he is part of the magic of the island itself.

As for me, I shall continue to kiss the sand each time I come back to Boracay. I can't help it, it's a classic symptom of Bora-philia.



THAT'S fiery sensei Paulino Servado, who always fires up the crowd on his fave sandy playground.



BORACH

By Tals Diaz
Photos by Kage Gozun

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE beach that just makes everything better?

There must be something about the salty breeze and the coconut-scented surf that heightens the senses and makes the ordinary

MOUTH-watering menu, Italian style

YUM yum, dimsum!

A mini palace of Dim Sum

The city's popular dimsum chain, Mongkok Dim Sum and Noodles, has recently found its own cozy space in paradise. Now, beachcombers can satisfy their post-boozing Chinese cuisine cravings just a few meters away from the beachfront, at the centralized pavilion of D'Mall.

Boracay is a 3G playground

BORACAY, THE SUMMER season's premiere party destination was the site of weeklong activities that gave vacationers and partyphiles a whole new experience—and possibly, the best Boracay summer ever!

The series of parties was kicked off by the Globe 3G Full Moon Parties—a first-of-its-kind festive fusion of house music and tribal beats, neon black lights and Globe 3G technology.

GLOBE'S 3G splitscreen at Pier One

Globe took party-hopping to the next level as it connected packed parties at two of Bora's most happening nightspots via Globe 3G video calls. Bigscreens at both venues showed live video calls between the parties, allowing revelers to enjoy the sights and sounds of both events at once—the groovy rhythms of DJ Funky Avy and three international DJs—DJ Nomad, Jojo Flores and Christian Hernandez at Plazoleta in Station 2, and Gruppo Tribale's frenetic beats all the way down the beach at Pier One in Station 1. Two places, one big party, uniquely connected through Globe's innovative 3G technology!

Globe's 3G team introduced the technology to enthusiastic party-goers at Plazoleta who got to talk to and see their friends at Pier One. Likewise, guests at Pier One were also able to check in on their friends at the Plazoleta party. It seemed anywhere in Boracay, people were able to connect with each other using 3G!

Thousands of the island paradise's guests and party-goers were able to experience 3G—seeing and not just talking to each other—whether they were at Globe's Floating Bar, Summer Tambayan, or anywhere on the beach! After experiencing these exciting possibilities firsthand, subscribers could hardly contain their enthusiasm for Globe's full rollout of this technology.

Tech-savvy tourists, on the other hand, invaded the Globe Summer Tambayan for an unlimited dose of super-charged third-generation technology, which allowed them to check their e-mail, surf their favorite sites, watch clips or download music. Here, mobile fanatics also got to listen to and download the latest and hippest summer ringtones, ringback and true tones at the Globe Gentxt Listening Stations.

FRANCIS Barte, Raf Gana, Franco Mabanta and Alexa Ramos

Meanwhile, vacationers received Globe passports which gave them ideas on how to spend their best summer ever on the island and a chance to win exciting stuff from Globe. Tasks enumerated in the passports had them completing simple, fun challenges which won for them free beach accessories, downloads, drinks and a chance to win iPods and one of 50 cell phones.

Thousands of Bora habitués paraded the island's shores and shops with the hottest, handiest accessory this summer, Globe's mini-beach bags which they also got for free! Also free with the mere purchase of a Globe SIM card and load were Globe beach towels which were a ubiquitous sight, modeled by Boracay's gorgeous beach bodies.

A-listers also found a new hangout in Boracay's new floating bar and restaurant which opened recently. Sponsored by Globe, the hip hangout was the best way to enjoy Boracay, sipping on your favorite drink, dancing to the waves and the music of DJ Chris Cheng while enjoying the tropical paradise's famous sunset.

At the Globe Summer Tambayan, visitors were given Internet access courtesy of Innove and

THE FLOATING bar

MODEL Will de Vaughn at Pier One

World Pass. The Globe 3
demonstrated the 3G
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Chill parties where Glo
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Everyone's awesome

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Summertime and the breathing is easy

extraordinary. An ice-cold Coke tastes better, ice cream just waltzes with your taste buds, a sip of your usual San Mig light makes you feel like throwing a party in your own little space in sandy Bohemia. Even a massage on the beach feels like it should go on forever.

If you find yourself in Boracay this summer, treat your taste buds to some new specials this season.

The offertory of Aria

Aria has already become a landmark in my regular Boracay sojourns.

Everytime I come to Boracay, I never fail to come here. I even have a favorite lounge space—on the cushions nearest the water. Under a canopy of coconut trees, your senses are treated to the aroma of tomatoes and seafood wafting with the tropical breeze.

Aria has recently introduced a lineup of brand new recipes from the kitchen of renowned Italian chef Gino Amodio. The exquisite new dishes are absolutely fantastic. Savor the *Capesante gratinate*, or gratinated scallops, the *Tanguigue in acqua pazza*, or tanguigue fish fillet with cherry tomato and white wine in a spicy sauce. Another must-relish is the *Spaghettini al granchio*, with crab meat in olive oil and white wine. *Prego!*

Of course, if I had my way, I'd take the advice of my choco-holic friends and have dessert first. The new one on the list is the *Pannacotta al Cioccolato e Mandorle*, a cream custard with chocolate and almonds. No superlatives can come close as the sweet carries on its love affair with your mouth.

(Aria sits serenely along the beachfront of D'Mall of Boracay.)

The best thing about Mongkok is the array of dimsum, offering the all-time favorite Chinese fare, like the *hakao* and shark's fin siomai. For the more voracious eaters, satisfy your appetite with favorite wanton noodle soup and the beef broccoli in oyster sauce. Yum yum dimsum!

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experience culminated with the Globe Groove party in Pier One where Gentxters were treated to rousing entertainment provided by DJ Mars Mariano, K-24/7 and Dice & K-9. The true highlight of the evening was the awarding of cell phone kits for the diligent first 50 who accomplished all 7 fun tasks in their Globe passport.

But more than the free items like cell phones, bags and beach towels, what made this Boracay holiday most memorable for thousands were the fun, the dancing, the laughter, the music, and most importantly, the connections made possible by Globe!

Mandala Spa

It is like walking through a liquid looking glass.

Entering Mandala Spa is venturing into another world, into a sacred space that tells stories of halcyon days and otherworld reveries. It is a tropical wonderland of the senses; from the distant rush of the surf, the bristling leaves and the scent of nature's perfumes carried by the island breeze.

Here, the elements are in perfect synchronicity with the soul. It is the idyllic place to surrender your mind and body.

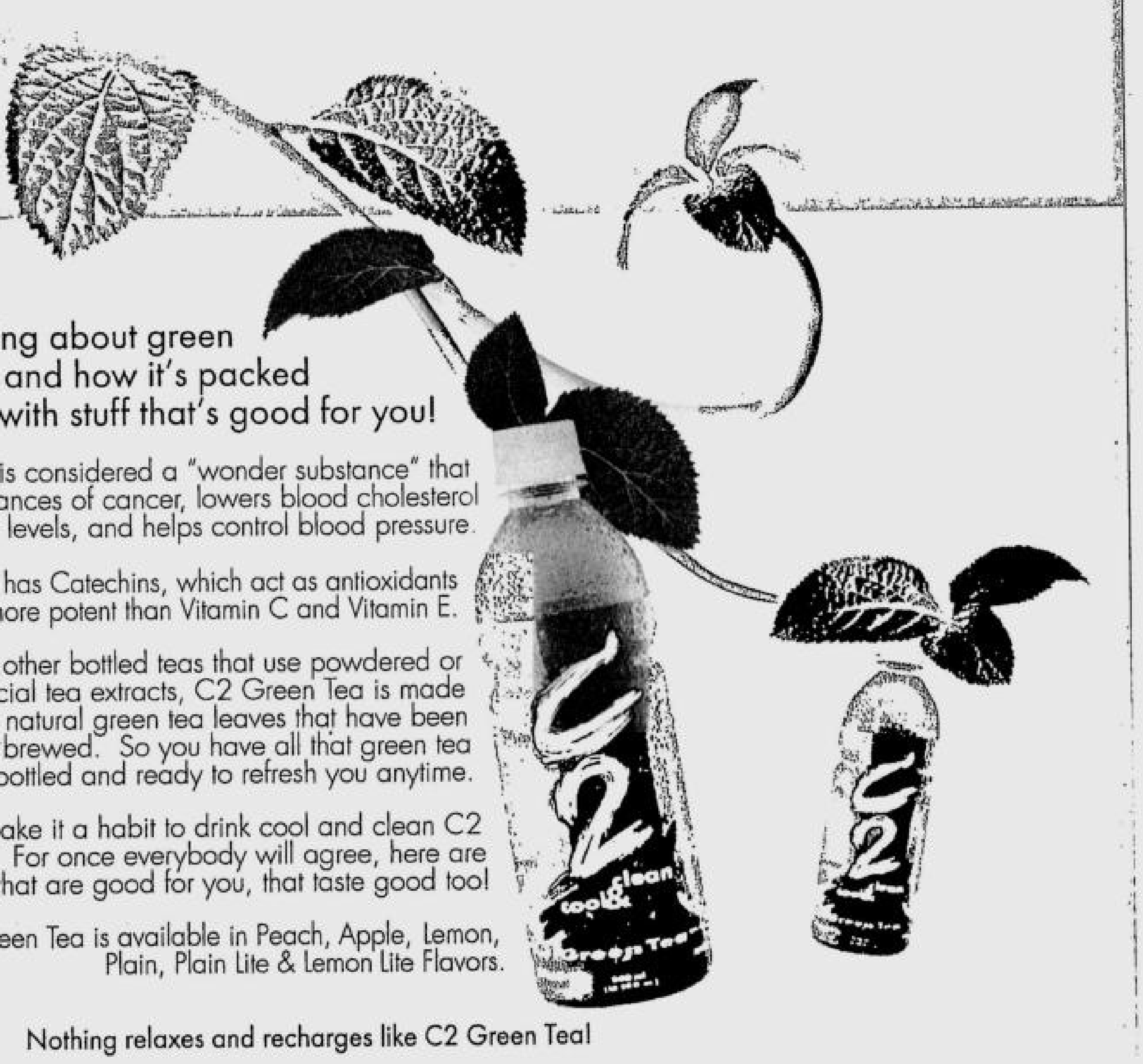
I was an all-too willing subject for total surrender, especially since the rising summer heat, the toxic city stress (and not to mention some toxic city people) was causing my inner system to short-circuit. Thus, I submitted myself to Mandala's **Signature Massage,** also known in these parts as an hour and a half of pure bliss. This massage was especially created by the award-winning wellness sanctuary to take you to a very deep state of relaxation. The aroma of special healing oils wafts through a private room for an olfactory lullaby. Using long-stroke pressure and gentle stretches, it combines ancient healing techniques with a refined symphony of strokes to ensure a first-class ticket to la-la land.

The Mandala Signature Massage is a wonderful primer for the rest of the spa's treatments, including the Watsu therapy, where one is cradled in a specially heated pool, and the Shodhana Karma Detoxification and Rejuvenation Treatment, which removes environmental toxins and stress by-products from the body.

So for you city slickers heading over to Boracay for some R n R, I highly suggest you invest in something you've probably neglected for quite a while—yourself.

(For more information, visit Mandala Spa's website at www.mandalaspa.com)

SACRED space is a wonderland of the senses



Greens are good for you.

‹And we're not just talking veggies!›

We're talking about green tea and how it's packed with stuff that's good for you!

Green tea is considered a "wonder substance" that reduces the chances of cancer, lowers blood cholesterol and blood sugar levels, and helps control blood pressure.

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Unlike other bottled teas that use powdered or artificial tea extracts, C2 Green Tea is made from real, natural green tea leaves that have been delicately brewed. So you have all that green tea goodness bottled and ready to refresh you anytime.

So make it a habit to drink cool and clean C2 Green Tea! For once everybody will agree, here are greens that are good for you, that taste good too!

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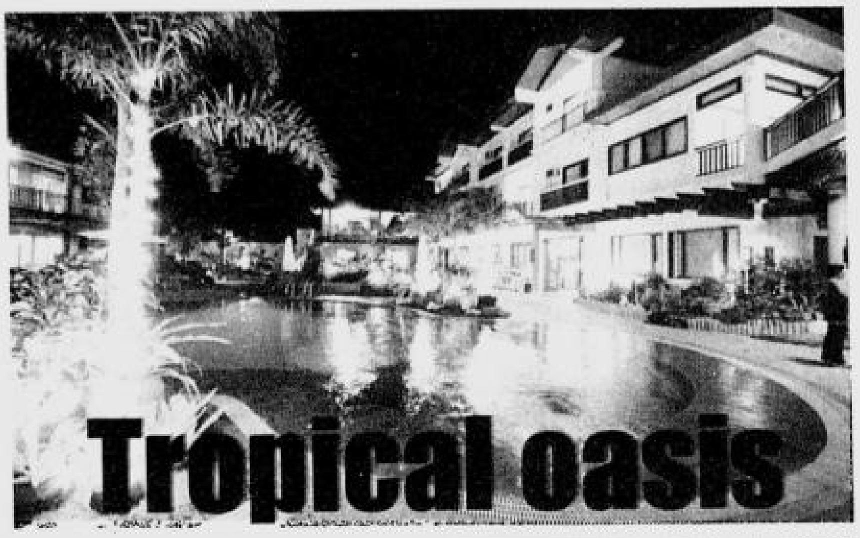
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2157 and 2161 Series of 2006

Give me a high five!

BORACAY BOUND IS BACK THIS SUMMER with even more exciting activities than ever! Dubbed "The Biggest Post Holy Week Party," Boracay Bound started as a means of enjoying the gorgeous white shores of Boracay without the chaos and commercialism that normally crowds the beach during Holy Week. Five years later, it's still the most anticipated summer event, with its throng of beach followers and sun worshippers agreeing that "the week after" is indeed, the most ideal time to head here!

The annual 3-day party satisfies every active taste from athletics to alcohol. With beach activities like Flag Football, 3G Adventure Race and Ray-Ban Adventure Relay, watch celebrities and models battle it out on the sand with the locals and tourists. At night, get ready to groove to the funkiest house tunes with Embassy Club's resident DJs Martin Pulgar and Owens Sun spinning in Cocomangas. ManoMission at Aria with Manolet Dario is also something to watch out for as Manila's pioneer DJ plays his favorite summer beats. Cap off the rest of the weekend at Club Paraw with the ultimate Hip Hop Party and fashion show featuring the sexiest summer wear to beat the heat this scorching season.



Tropical oasis

BORACAY TROPICS RESORT HOTEL, located at station 2 in the island of Boracay, is a tropical oasis blending of Mediterranean and Asian architecture and interiors on a sprawling estate of verdant landscape.

It is meticulously designed to provide privacy, a bounty of breathing space and peaceful refuge from the bustle of the beachfront. The two three-story building property encloses the exclusive and self-contained sanctuary.

Most of the guest rooms have balconies overlooking the giant bean shaped pool and the lush garden with trees. The hotel has 44 elegantly-appointed superior deluxe rooms and six cabana suites. The premier suites include a receiving area, a kitchenette. All rooms are equipped with air conditioning units, a mini-bar, a private shower with hot and cold water, a cable TV and an in-room safety deposit vault.

The multi-purpose tropicafe restaurant situated at the ground floor serves a sumptuous choice of the best oriental and western cuisine with a bar to unwind after a long adventurous day in the island.

KTV rooms warm up guests for a festive Boracay nightlife. A health and nail spa is also available to pamper and soothe tired bodies. A children's game room, meanwhile keeps kids entertained with computer and board games while parents relax.

For travelers who need to mix business and pleasure, there are seminar facilities designed for small or big events with rooms spacious enough for small groups to about 150 people. A modern business center is available to provide access to the everyday world.

For details, please call Manila office at 687 1465, 667 3974, or 667 3942 or through e-mail at infoboracaytropics.com

THE SPIRIT THAT CARES. Asian Spirit's Jack Po, Toti Torralba and Allen Mojica

The real Boracay heroes

SO MANY STORIES HAVE BEEN TOLD about our beloved getaway island, but no one has ever thought of giving credit to the real unsung heroes of Boracay - their transport team, the people who bring us to the shores straight from Caticlan, who brings us from station to station, and who carry our heavy loads and our baggages.

Asian Spirit, which is celebrating its 10th year anniversary, teamed up with the local government of Mayor Ciceron Kawaling to kick off the first ever Malay (Boracay) Transport Service Awards.

The project aims to give credit to the achievement of the tourism service providers that have helped the island's tourism grow. There are many awards to be given out - including top tricycle drivers, boatmen, transport cooperatives and porters in the island.

For the past 10 years, Asian Spirit has been a vital partner of Boracay in bringing in tourists to the island, even from the time that it was just a backpacker's haven. It is just fitting that as they celebrate a decade of service to the island by recognizing the people who have shown outstanding service in building up the tourism growth in the island.

Boracay is what it is partly because of them.

Contact the Asian Spirit at hotline 8553

HE'S THE MAN! Mayor Ciceron Cawaling

THE UNSUNG BORACAY HEROES. The heads of the different transport services in Boracay

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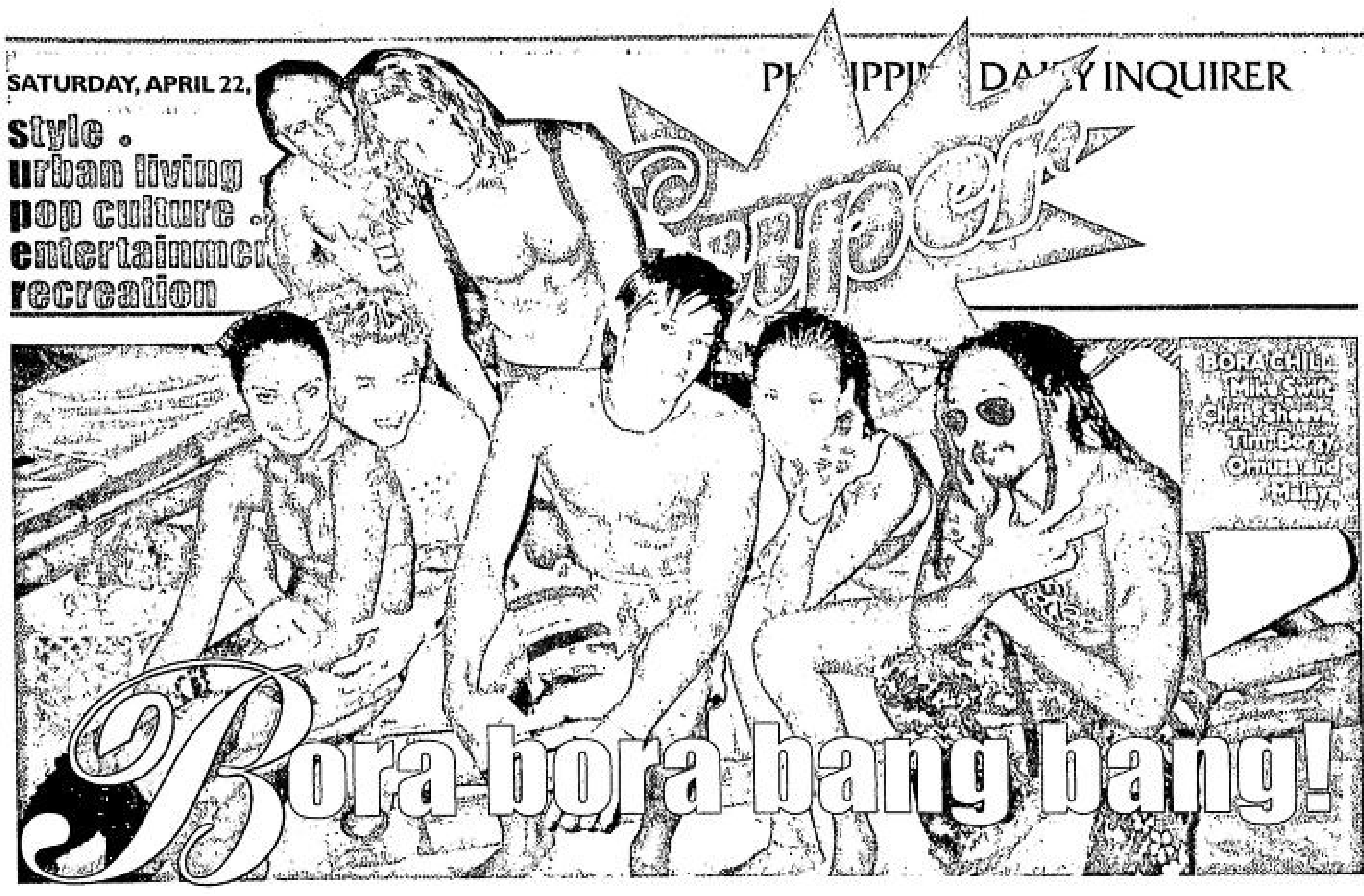
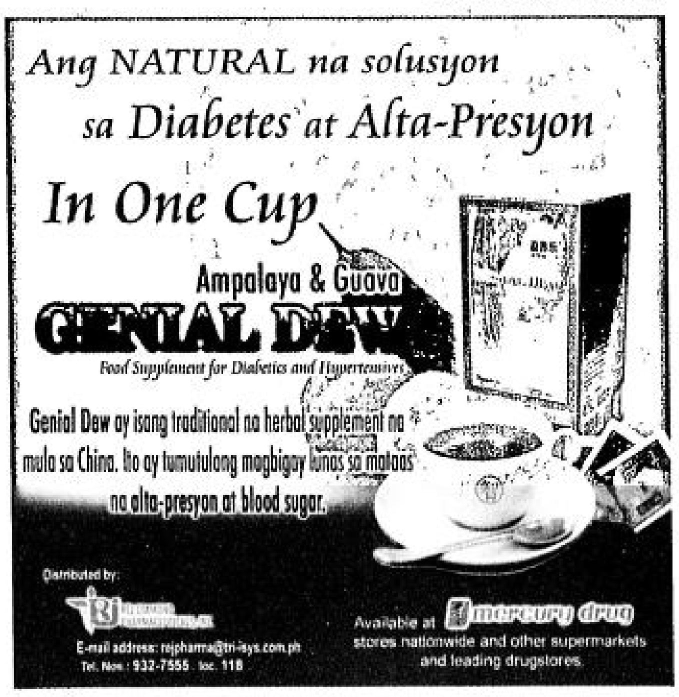


BORA CHILL: Mike Swift, Chris Sheena, Tim, Borgy, Ornusa and [illegible]

Bora-bora bang bang!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Tim Yap

I F YOU SEE ME AROUND THE city anytime this whole month, that's not me.

Chances are, I'm on the sandy shores of my second home. Peak season or *habagat*, my heart will always be on high tide when it comes to Boracay.

Luckily for me and for my Addict mobile brood, Holy Week has been a family tradition of resort hopping, sunset sessions and beach parties!

Whereas other folks prefer their phones off during vacation time, I opt to carry it with me (what are pockets for?), especially now since I've asked **Louie Ang** and **Nina Gomez** to turn me on.

Statue dance

By that I meant my Smart 3G service, which comes for free—take advantage of it this month! Technology at the beach, why not? I guess the overload of technology has been the reason for the constant brownouts that the island has been going through. It felt a bit like "statue dance" in some parts. But hey, when I'm sipping Malibu pineapples one minute and dancing with **Nicole Hernandez**, **Kelly Misa** and **Georgina Wilson** the next, who am I to complain?

Holy Week in Bora may translate to spring break in Cancun for some party peeps, and last week's was no different. There were just more abs on the island. And I'm not just talking about **Borgy Manotoc**, **Ornusa Cadness** and **Brent Javier**. Again, I am not one to complain. From the amateur to the party pro, the Holy Week festivities had enough flavor to spice up every partyphiliac's taste buds.

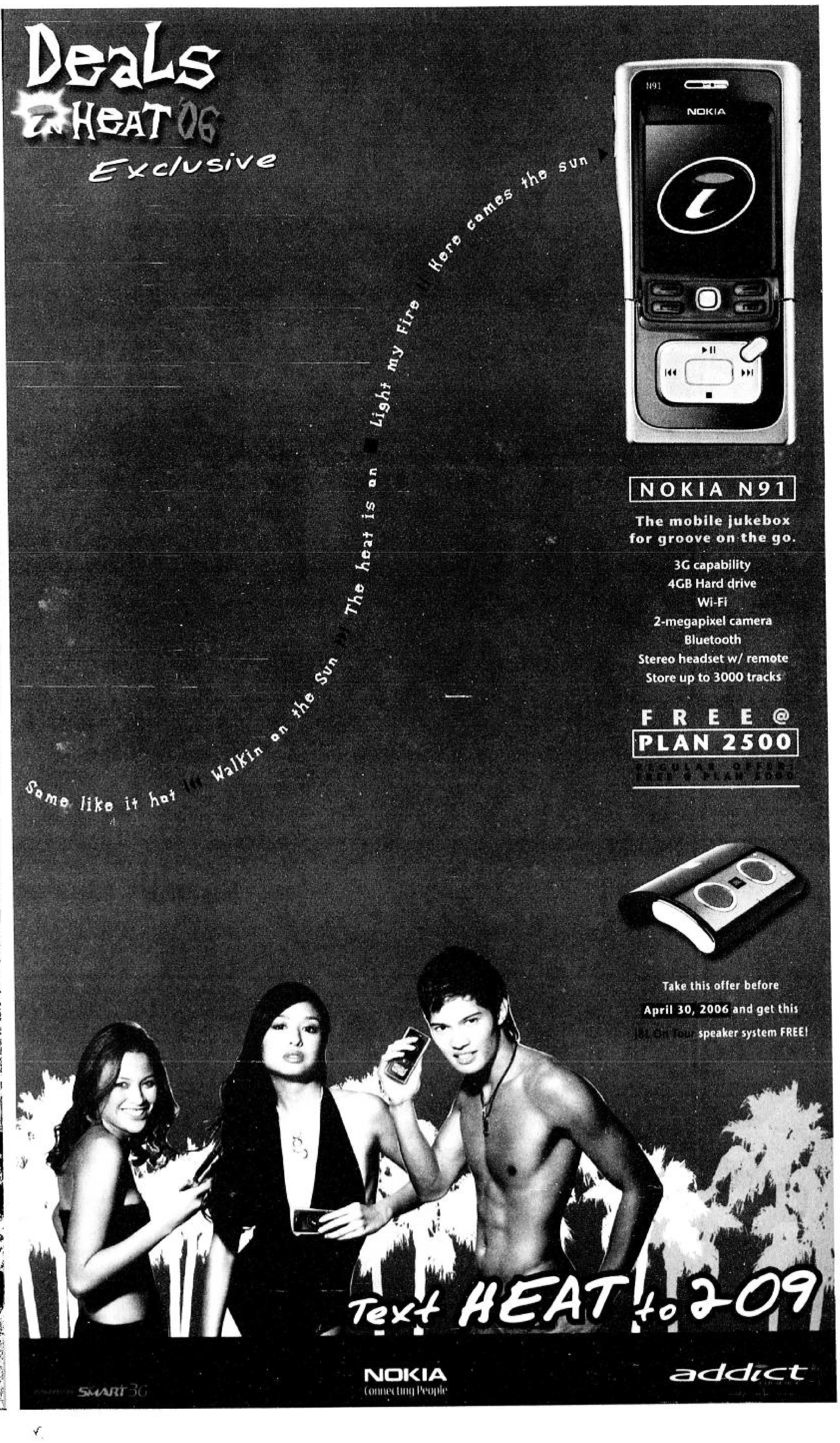
New restaurants were aplenty—there's **Nino Zulueta**'s Cyma, **Happy Ongpauco**'s Hawaiian Bar-B-Q, **Geni Psinakis** and **Nikos Gitsis** even have a new hotel called Zuzuni, plus the space of Portugalia at the new wing of D' Mall. Manila imports were doing equally well, **Trondz Cheng**'s Ice Monster had monster lines craving for his ice carved desserts.

What else is new? **Nino Zulueta** and new partner **Aaron Sicat** are venturing into reverse bungee jumping and a little birdie told me that there will be a new boutique hotel that will be put up right smack center of D'Mall. What should they call it? D*Boutique Hotel?!

BORA/ D2

AMP TRIO: [illegible] Nicole Hernandez and Carlos [illegible]

ADDICTED TO FUN: [illegible]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Bora bora bang bang!

A-LIST ADDICT chick Kelly Misa

YOUNG GUNS RULE. Mark Reyes and Mary Ann Santano

ADDICTS IN BORACAY. Ornusa Cadness and Borgy Manotoc

NIVEA THREE SUN. Bubbles Paraiso, Michelle Madrigal, Yanni Nuñez

AMP-LIFIED. Nicole Hernandez and Brent Javier

ADDICT EMPIRE. Nina Gomez and Louie Ang

CHILLY summer with Trondz Cheng of Ice Monster

UNITED IN BORA. Model-slash-surfer Chris with girlfriend Sheeva Zareechian

ON THE FAMILY WAY. Amina and Rafa Alunan

AT SLINKY. Doug Kramer and Cheska Garcia

STARSTRUCK Kapusos. Bianca King and Raymond Gutierrez

NAMI SMILES. From Cheese Ledesma and Joel Ong

NEW ADDICTS. Cristina Garcia and Nina Gomez

BLUE ROOM BEAT MASTER. Macky Maguigad

FRESH CONFIDENCE. Arnold Vegafria and Jay-R

JUDE JAMMING. Jun Poblador and Jimmy Muna

EXTRA CHALLENGED. Andrew Wolff and Matthew Golar

GLOBAL SUPERSTAR. Pinoy DJ Jojo Flores

TRY HAPPY Ongpauco's new restaurant Hawaiian Barbecue

BED IN BREAKFAST. QC Councilor Wency Lagumbay and Reagan Dy

BORA'S BEST. Malay Mayor Dong Cawaling

MANDALA ABS SPECIAL. Freida Dario sandwiched between James Zabian and Vaughn Donaire

G SPOTTED. Gwen Garci

C'EST LA VIE. French school's Katya, Jove of Mandala and sexy Bora resident Micee

VIVA LE FRANCE! French men Nathanael and Cyrille are enjoying their Pinoy summer.

From page D1

Thirsty? I super dig Nestea's Green Tea Ice drink to refresh myself while I traipse around during sunset. Actually everything's going green tea now. It started with Haagen Dazs green tea ice cream and C2 and now there's this whole green tea explosion—even Dove soap has a green tea variant—I like!

Float your boat

Wanna get wasted, like, fast? Then go to Juice Bar at Plazoleta and try the "F* YOU Archie" drink—it is designed to make you scream more expletives in your life after trying it out. Don't say I didn't warn you. Away from the maddening crowds, there's also the floating bar (you can access it through a boat from Pier 1) where those who are still up (either they just got up or haven't slept from the night before) go straight for navigational nourishment—until the sun goes down. (Honestly, for these people, it never does.)

There, the night's featured DJs play to a hipper-than-hip-and-oh-so-up-for-it crowd. Beat wise, after the Tiesto-Hed Kandy battle, last Holy weekend's Bora bound round was between Slinky and Kaskade. Me and my new Addict Mobile party partner Cristina Garcia blew out the bubbly at Hey Jude where the Slinky and Big Fish DJs were rocking the island and we had more than our fill of bubbly beats, Bora style. You go **Erwin Edralin**! **DJ Manster**, you're da man!!!

Tonight on this sizzling summer island, **Anton Ramos** regales us with his Real Sunset Sessions at Waling Waling while Team Kandy's Paul Hill highlights Big Fish's Holy week finale.

After all the intoxication, never leave without the right amount of detox. Neo Spa and Mandala Spa are just at opposite ends of the island, ready to pamper the weary partyphile with the right dose of relaxation.

"Detox!" my massage therapist at Neo at Pearl of the Pacific readily recommended after seeing me that weekend. Wrapped in mud and algae and saran wrapped to perfection, and then massaged to perfection, I felt bliss, like I was in heaven, only a bit noisier. But hey, who am I to complain?

THE FUTURE IT BOY OF BORACAY. Tyler Sumndad will conquer these shores someday.

So who's playing in Bora tonight?

DJ PAUL HILL (HED KANDI)—PAUL'S BACKground has always been in music. His father had formed his first band in his early teens and been part of many bands and duos for as long as Paul can remember, Paul was even responsible for naming one of them. With his roots definitely set and with more musical influences than you can imagine, Paul started into music with electronic keyboards as early as 4 years old. As he got older the keyboards got bigger and more functional allowing him to record what he played. By the time Paul was a teenager he was into writing his own complete tracks using computers and "synths." After his GCSEs, Paul started a "Music Technology & Performing Arts" course at The B.R.I.T. School in Croydon. "I had a fantastic two years, I made some great friends, met some amazing musicians, discovered some amazing music and learned a lot about production, music and myself."

Anton Ramos (The Real Sunset Boracay Sessions)—Anton Ramos produced the Chill-Out Project House Sessions One, Two & Three. He started with The Chillout Project, the radio program back in 1997 on 99.5 RT. It focused on what was then the cutting edge sound of downtempo and trip hop. It enjoyed an unprecedented run as the lone electronica/dance music show on air until 2002. Now the show has been transferred to a new station. Anton is also a much sought after DJ, now famous for his House Sessions CDs which is the largest selling house/dance compilation series in the Philippines and in selected HMV Music Stores in Asia today.

Erwin Edralin (Slinky Pre-Party)—One of the country's top senior DJs, critiques hailed him as the most promising talent to hit the local club circuit. This lead guitarist started to DJ at the early age of 16 at his brother's club, the legendary ABG's in Makati. Within a decade of being the toast of Manila's music connoisseurs and club scene aficionados, he already performed for numerous international events such as Sundance '99, he opened for Matt Hardwick and Ashley Casselle of Gatecrasher in December of 1999, and co-billed with Ferry Corsten and Bruno of Ibiza's Café Del Mar in October and December of 2000, and just recently opened for Brian Cross for the Amnesia Ibiza Trance World Tour in Manila. Unique and often described as classy and subdued, his music never fails to be playful, funky, soulful and deep … a quality of musical taste that is solely his own.

DJ Manster (Slinky Pre-Party)—Raised in Cebu, DJ Manster discovered paradise in Boracay on the onset of the millennium. He originally planned to delve into kiteboard training until he tried spinning disks at Hey Jude! Bar and eventually took the job as the bar's resident DJ from then on. Although he appreciates the music of Ian Pooley, Chus, Plump DJs, among others, he clings to his own style of playing music integrating the hottest new beats from around the world with the distinctive island vibe. Spinning electro house, funky house, deep house and break beats, DJ Manster turns the house upside down and will definitely make you rise and strut your butts to the groove! Boracay rocks with DJ Manster in Asia today.

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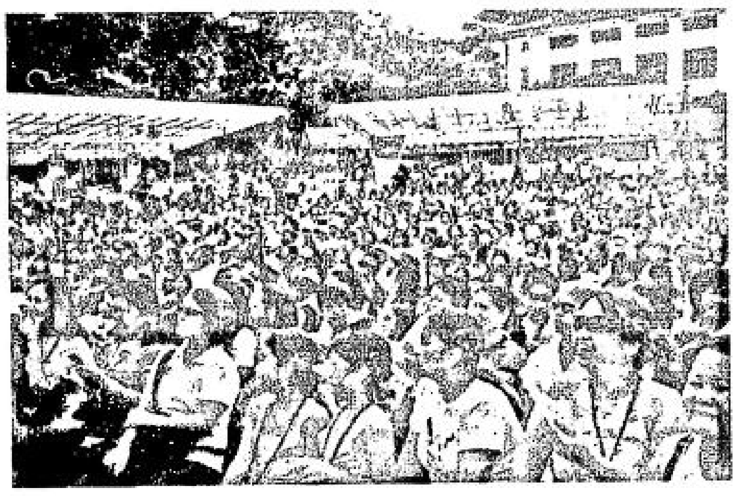
Pinoy

SMART REACHES
SINGAPORE SHORES

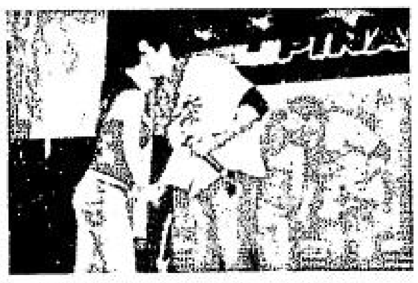
Comedian Arnel Ignacio helped bring joy to our kababayans as host of the SMART Pinoy festivities



Fort Canning Park was filled with Pinoys during the "SMART Pinoy Kamustahan"

John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Richard Gutierrez and Arnel Ignacio entertained the Pinoys gathered in Singapore

Dominic Ochoa greets his legions of fans in Singapore



Richard Gutierrez gets more than a flower from a starstruck fan

PLDT Global President Al Panlilio and Judy Ann Santos announce the lucky winner of the raffle draw

Even in "the Lion City", SMART Communications and PLDT Global made their presence felt. Together with partner Mobile One, SMART and PLDT launched the first truly Pinoy GSM Prepaid Service in Singapore with the introduction of the SMART Pinoy SIM card at Fort Canning Park on March 26 and April 2. The event was considered as the grandest Filipino product launch in Singapore with thousands of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in attendance.

Celebrities such as Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo, and Dominic Ochoa graced the March 26 event and turned the celebration into one dynamic Filipino party. Matinee idol Richard Gutierrez joined the love team of John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo in sweetening the April 2 affair. Versatile host, comedian, and videoke master Arnel Ignacio served as master of ceremonies. The stars took part in singing contests, dished out song-and-dance numbers, and participated in photo opportunities with the gathered Pinoys.

As a local SIM card in Singapore, SMART Pinoy offers the lowest local and international text and call rates. Relatives and friends of SMART Pinoy subscribers in the Philippines can now enjoy the one-peso text rate being offered for SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers for every text message sent to a SMART Pinoy user in Singapore. SMART Pinoy offers electronic load at a very affordable SG$5, SG$10 and SG$15 denomination, as well as the capability to send e-load to SMART subscribers in the Philippines at P30, P60, P115 and P200 denominations. A flat rate of international direct dial access thru 15-61 is also available. To lessen the homesickness of Pinoys in Singapore, they can also download all-Filipino downloadable content and information on-demand like SSS contribution updates, foreign exchange rates and Philippine headline news.

Top executives from PLDT and SMART supported the much-awaited launch thru their presence on the two Sundays. PLDT Global President Alfredo S. Panlilio and PLDT Singapore General Manager Enrique "Rey" Gonda Yu were more than satisfied with the turn-out for the event. According to Panlilio, "What made this event truly much special is that we were able to bring superior entertainment to the Overseas Filipino Workers in Singapore together with a SIM card that is customized for the needs of OFWs and their families in the Philippines."

With the launch of SMART PINOY in Singapore, SMART and PLDT Global have brought the OFWs a step closer to home.

PREPAID GSM SERVICE
SMART
Pinoy
Nagkakaintindihan Tayo.

The Sweet Spot

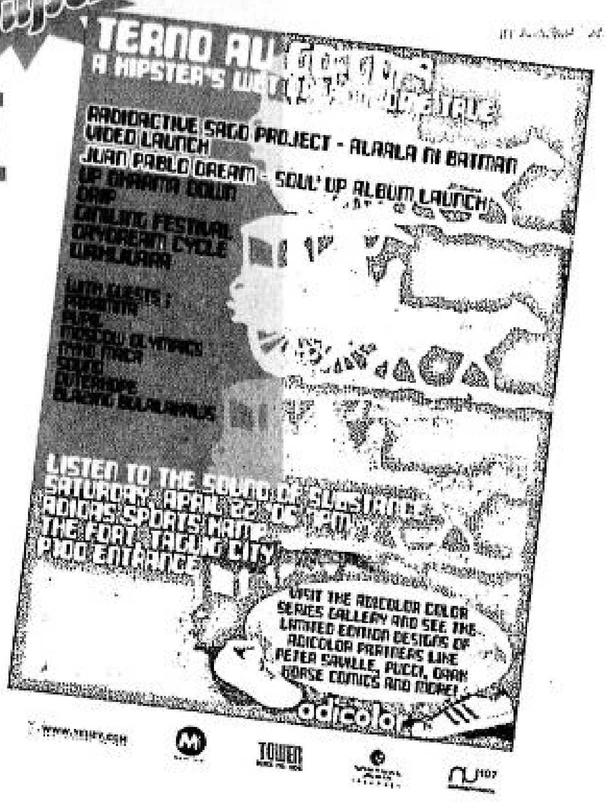
Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

THE INDEPENDENT music industry may lack the stadium-stomping, studio-bred babies of today, but they are home to some of the brightest lights in the scene. Attracting everyone from mods and punks to college kids and yuppies, the popular bimonthly party, "Terno Au Go Go: A Hipster's Wet Dream Come True," is turning out to be one of the most eagerly-awaited Anti-"It" events in town.

The label night of indie music outfit Terno Records, the crowd-drawing concert was created to showcase the talents of the six diverse artists under its wing: Radioactive Sago Project, Juan Pablo Dream, Drip, Up Dharma Down, Wahijuara, and Giniling Festival.

Catch the 7th Terno Au Go Go party tonight at 7 p.m. at the Adidas Sports Kamp, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig (also the venue, incidentally, of Adidas' Adicolor Series Gallery, which features the limited edition designs of Adidas partners Pucci, Peter Saville, and others). Other live acts slated to perform are Paramita, Pupil, Moscow Olympics, Nyko Maca, Sound, Outerhope, and Blazing Bulalakaws.

Music impresario Toti Dalmacion, the brainchild behind Terno and Groovenation, invites you to come over, challenge your pop sensibilities, and listen to the sweet "sound of substance." For P100, that really doesn't sound too shabby. Call 844-4656.


TERNO AU GO GO
A HIPSTER'S WET DREAM COME TRUE
RADIOACTIVE SAGO PROJECT - ALAALA NI BATMAN
VIDEO LAUNCH
JUAN PABLO DREAM - SOUL' UP ALBUM LAUNCH
UP DHARMA DOWN
DRIP
GINILING FESTIVAL
DAYDREAM CYCLE
WAHIJUARA
WITH GUESTS :
PARAMITA
PUPIL
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Other Super! 24/7 events:

April 22, Saturday

Hed Kandi Beach House at Hey Jude (Boracay); Speed Dating at 10/F Somerset Millennium Suites; Terno Au Go Go 7 at Adidas Sports Kamp; Freshly Squeezed at Citrus; 20something Saturday w/ GP Reyes & Stephen Ku at Mezze; DJs Chip dela Calzada & Mac Cunanan at Quisine; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; Fluxxe at 6 Underground; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Wham Bam w/ Bam del Valle at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Campusition Night at Mag:Net Café; DR Productions at Conspiracy; Classified at Dish; Pinikpikan at '70s Bistro

April 23, Sunday

Christian Lacroix: Dialogues at the Ayala Museum; Olazo & Olazo exhibit at Galleria Duemila; Filipinas: Isa Lorenzo exhibit at UP Vargas Museum; Jaime Zobel exhibit at Ayala Museum; Kuhang Marino exhibit at UP Vargas Museum

April 24, Monday

Haranang Bayan feat. Pol Galang at Conspiracy; Ethan band at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Dawn at Merk's; Wine Buffet at The Lounge; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

April 25, Tuesday

Salsa Night w/ Salsa Filipinas at Mezze; Cesare Syjuco, Cooky Chua, and Mike Villegas at Conspiracy; Bridge at '70s Bistro; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Acoustic Night at Temple; Flintstones at Dish; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

April 26, Wednesday

Up Dharma Down at '70s Bistro; Weekend Wednesdays with DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's ; Glow at M Café; Discotech w/ DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Willy Wanka's Music Factory w/ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; DJ Crash at Temple; DJ Brit at Government; Acoustic Night at 6 Underground; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Jazz Night at Mag:Net Café Katipunan; Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy

April 27, Thursday

NBK's Zouk feat. DJ B & Manolet Dario at Embassy Club; Rivermaya at Dish; Acoustic Jam 2: Open Mic Night at Conspiracy; Browntnan Revival at '70s Bistro; Silly Peoples Improv Theater (SPIT) at Mag:Net Café Katipunan; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple

April 28, Friday

Celestial w/ DJ Benjo Marquez at Mezze; Superfly Fridays w/ DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus; Pat Boone at Araneta Coliseum; Joey Ayala at Conspiracy

Twisted Pair at Dish; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; HouseBeats w/ DJ Mark de Leon at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at '70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Takeover Fridays at Prince of Jaipur; Route 70 at Merk's

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

STING

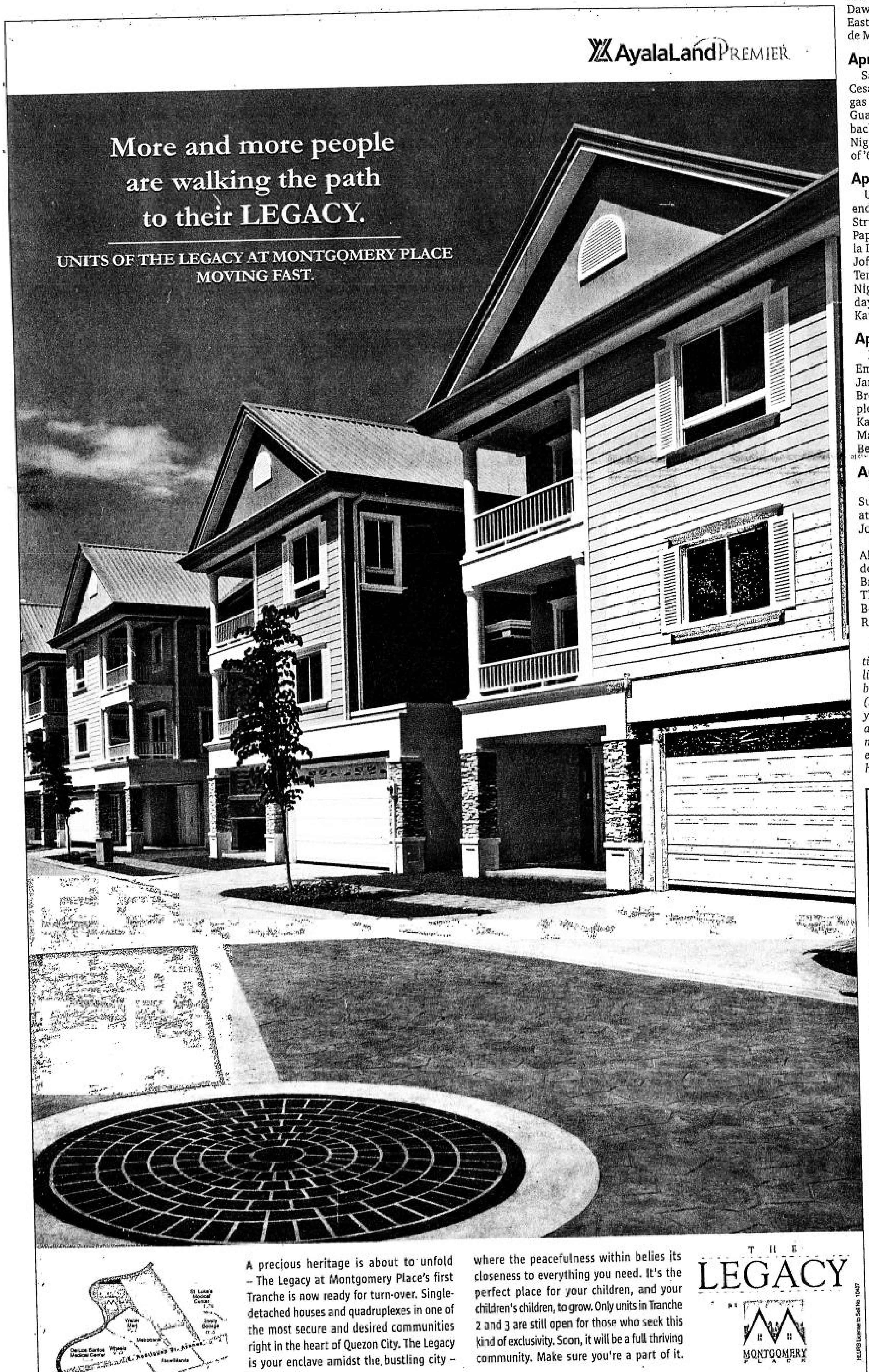
Jazz, fizzle, pop

SONY BMG RECENTLY RELEASED THE much anticipated new album of pop jazz standards from acclaimed trumpeter Chris Botti and nine superstar guest vocalists entitled "To Love Again," the successor to Botti's worldwide success "When I fall In love."

"To Love Again" showcases Chris Botti's inimitable velvet tone and sublime trumpet phrasings on 13 newly recorded pop and jazz standards featuring nine stand out vocal performance by some of the greatest singers in modern pop, jazz and rock.

Joining Chris on "To Love Again" are guest vocalists, Sting, Paula Cole, Michael Bublé, Jill Scott, Paul Buchanan, Gladys Knight, Renee Olstead, Rosa Passos and even Steve Tyler.

Chris Botti's "To Love Again" is available in CDs in all record stores nationwide.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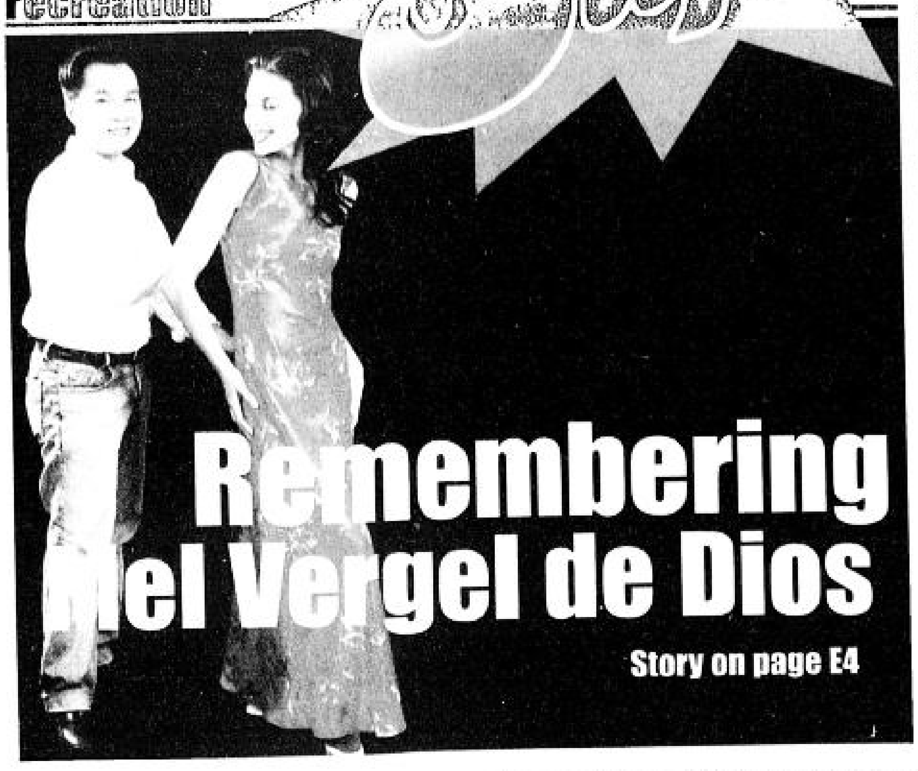
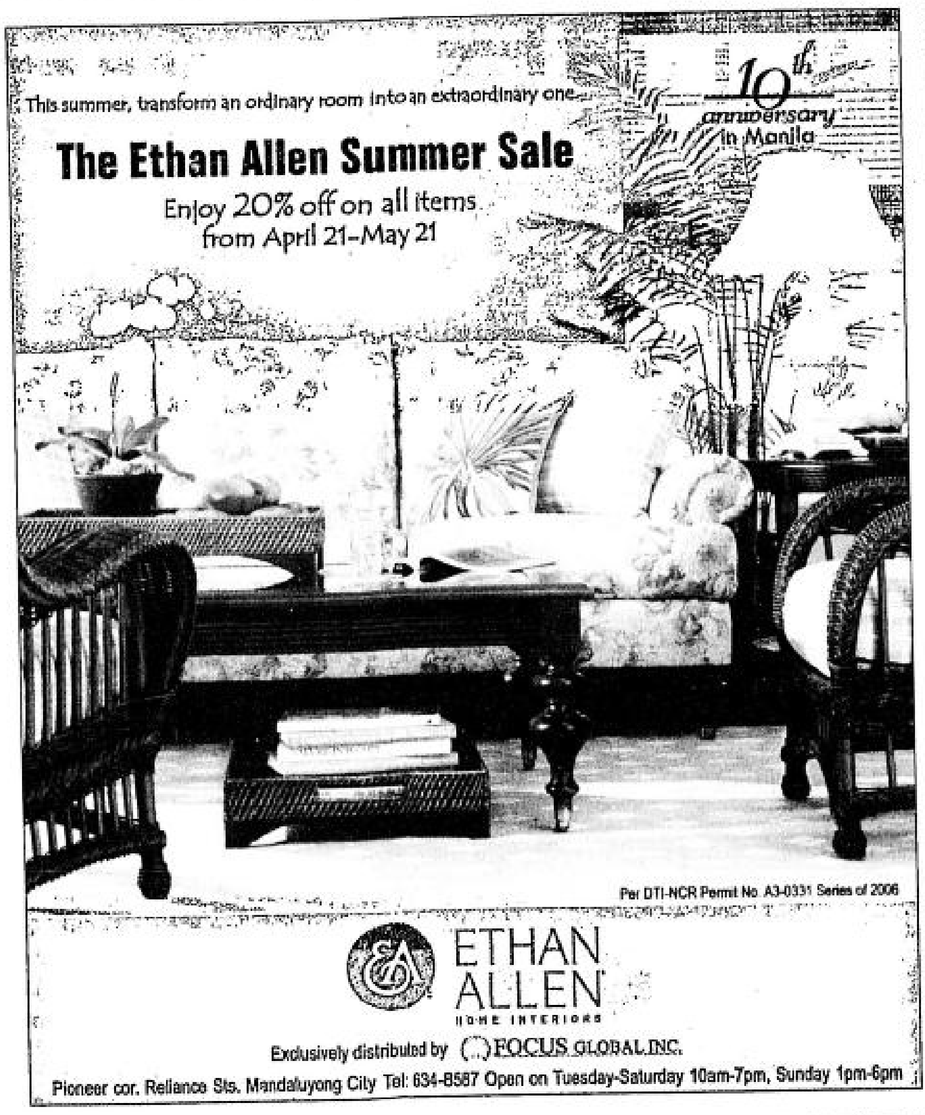
Super



Remembering Mel Vergel de Dios

Story on page E4



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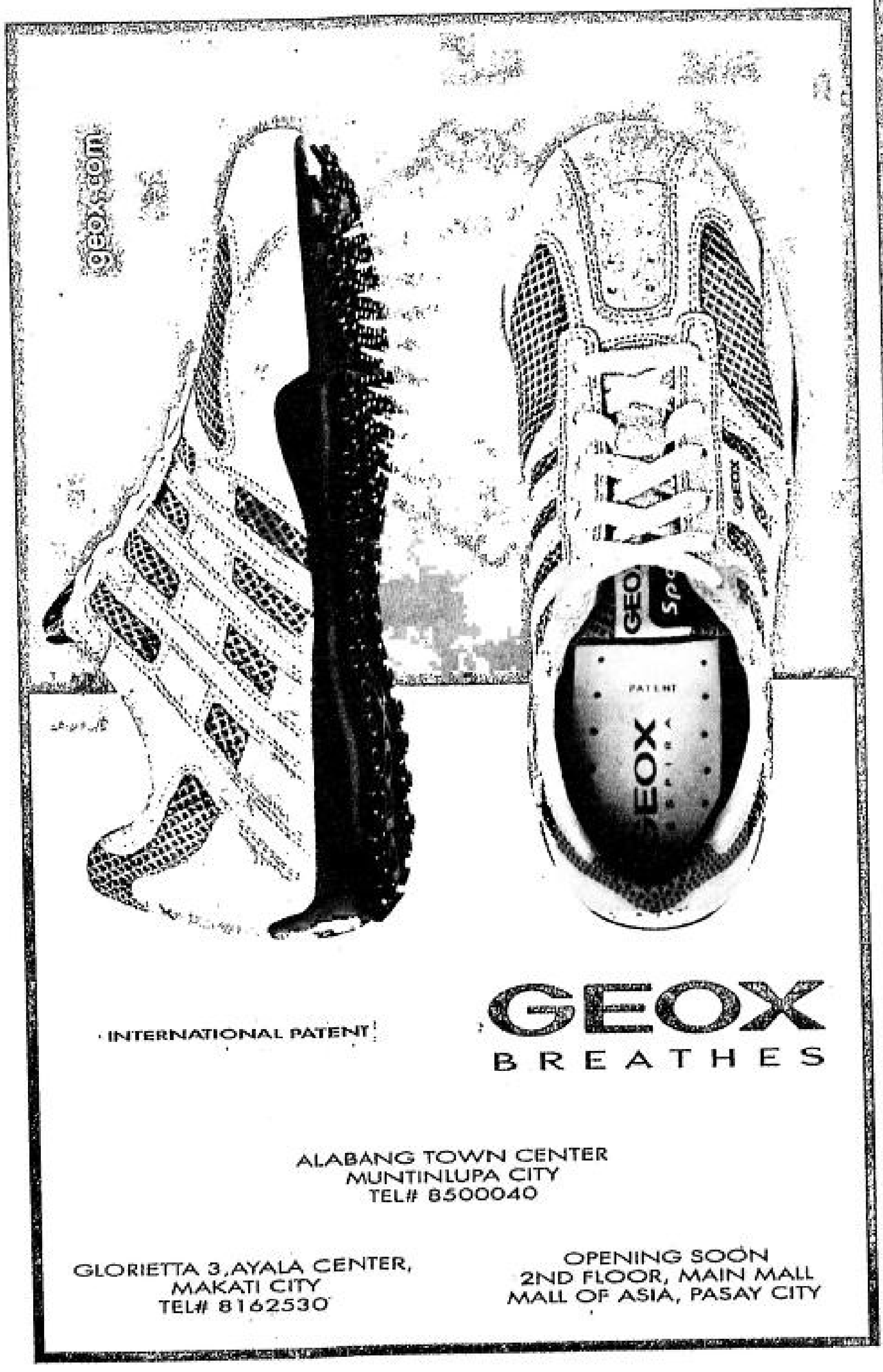

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Enchanted Kingdom

Dance Up a Summer Storm

What happens when the country's most beloved theme park gets into the summer groove? You get this season's hottest celebration: Enchanted Kingdom's Festivale Danze!

Festivale Danze is a musical parade that brings together a colorful mix of dances from all over the world, and now spreads them all across the expansive grounds of Enchanted Kingdom. Full of the spirit and exuberance of the youth, it is a tribute to the radiant magic of summer.

Never before will the streets of Enchanted Kingdom overflow with so much life. Artistic director Freddie Santos, the appointed visionary behind this spectacle, made sure of that. He took inspiration from the Park's various rides and themes to come up with a diverse program of stunning moves and grooves. Among them are:

- Bailamos, a super-charged Latin and hip-hop number
- The Victorian Court, a combination of classic minuet formations and breakaway dance grooves
- The Brooklyn Swingers, a full swinging, boogie-overflowing suite
- Jungle Natives, a rhythmic assault of the senses, with fire-eaters heating up the act
- Boulderville Cartoonix, top re-arranger Spike Jones creates a musical mayhem, where comedy and movement prove they're a good match
- Street Life, a rousing number by the Drums and Lyre Marching Band, one of the country's youngest and most outstanding bands, and Laguna's pride and joy
- Exodus Reborn, a beautifully choreographed performance that brings the award-winning movie to life
- Ati-Atihan Rhythms, the percussion group keeps the wild beat going all throughout the parade
- Eldar's Spell, Enchanted Kingdom's beloved ruler Eldar and characters from the much loved comic book Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom lead audiences into one dance after another with just a magical wave of the Wizard's wand

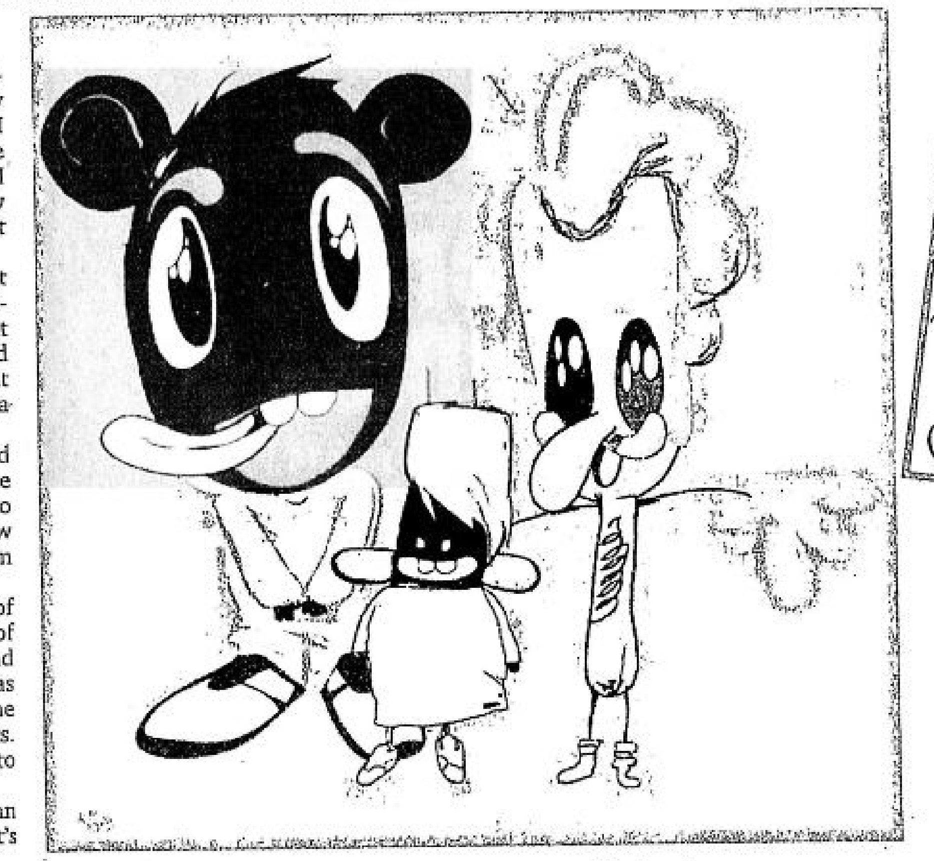
And we haven't even mentioned the dazzling fireworks yet! Just another small addition to Enchanted Kingdom's newest and biggest attraction this summer. Kicking off at 5pm every Saturday and Sunday starting April 22, while the park itself is open everyday 'til June 4, from 4pm to 12mn on weekdays, and 10am to 12mn on weekends and holidays.

You'll have plenty of time to make the most out of summer. So long as you make your way to Enchanted Kingdom - for the magical beats and rhythms of Festivale Danze!

(I got) Mobbed

And if any of you see Lenny, Donny Sunshine, and Gus-run

By Pepe Diokno



IT WAS A NICE MORNING IN SINGAPORE. I woke up really early in my room in the super Scarlet Hotel, so I went down to the lobby to borrow free DVDs. I was still kinda groggy, so I thought I was hallucinating when I saw three of the ugliest creatures on the planet trying to check in at the desk.

The nice lady was trying to explain that check-in time's at 12 noon, but the animals wouldn't listen. "We want a room!" It was seven in the morning. Now, I needed to pass the time watching DVDs, so I went up to the desk. And that turned out to be a really bad idea.

The devils turned towards me, and then one of them grabbed me... by the knee. My knees are extremely ticklish. So I looked into the thing's eyes, and I knew what it wanted. They wanted my room key!

What followed was twenty minutes of really bad luchadore wrestling. One of them reached into my pocket and snatched my Moto SLVR and said he was going to crush it. That's how they won the match against me and the receptionists. They then tied me up, and brought me to my room.

A few minutes later, they demanded an interview. They still have my SLVR. That's why this is published.

Who are you?

Lenny: Ohmygod, you don't recognize us?! We're TV personalities! Celebrities! Stars! Serious actors. I—you're just out of the radar.

Donny: We're with MTV Mobbed!

Gus: Slurp, slurp.

What are you guys up to?

Lenny: World domination, little Asian man.

You can't do that.

Donny: Yes we can, we're American! I mean, no, we're not American. I'm confused.

Gus: You wear panties.

Donny: They're not panties they're just yellow!

What's your plan?

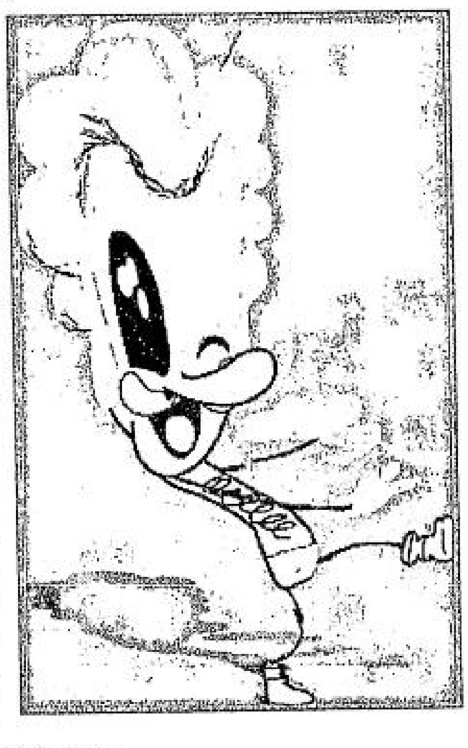
Lenny: We can't tell you.

You don't have one.

Lenny: Yes we do! This is the plan: We reach young people on-air, online, on-mobile, and even on-ground. They get news, ringtones, wallpapers, screensavers, lifesavers, supersavers, supersize me... I'm lost. Donny, take over.

Donny: I need my notes! (Fumbles) They get MOTOALERT too, where artists are featured every month. There are games, and contests—and everyone can set up their own MTV Mobbed blog. And then little by little the youth of Asia starts looking like us. Mwahahaha.

Donny and Lenny: Mwahahaha.



Gus: I like chewing gum.

Lenny: We will rule... Asia and um, then the world!

People aren't going to buy any of that.

Donny: Yes they will! Every time they interact with Mobbed they get *moolah*.

Gus: *Moolah!*

Lenny: They get booty too-artist merchandise, concert tickets, and collectibles and stuff.

You b*stards. I will stop you.

Lenny: No you can't! If you do anything to stop us... we'll give you a phone for free just to shut up. Cough.

Donny: That's why we give phones away on mtvmobbed.com. It's elementary, really.

Gus: Lenny likes girl bands.

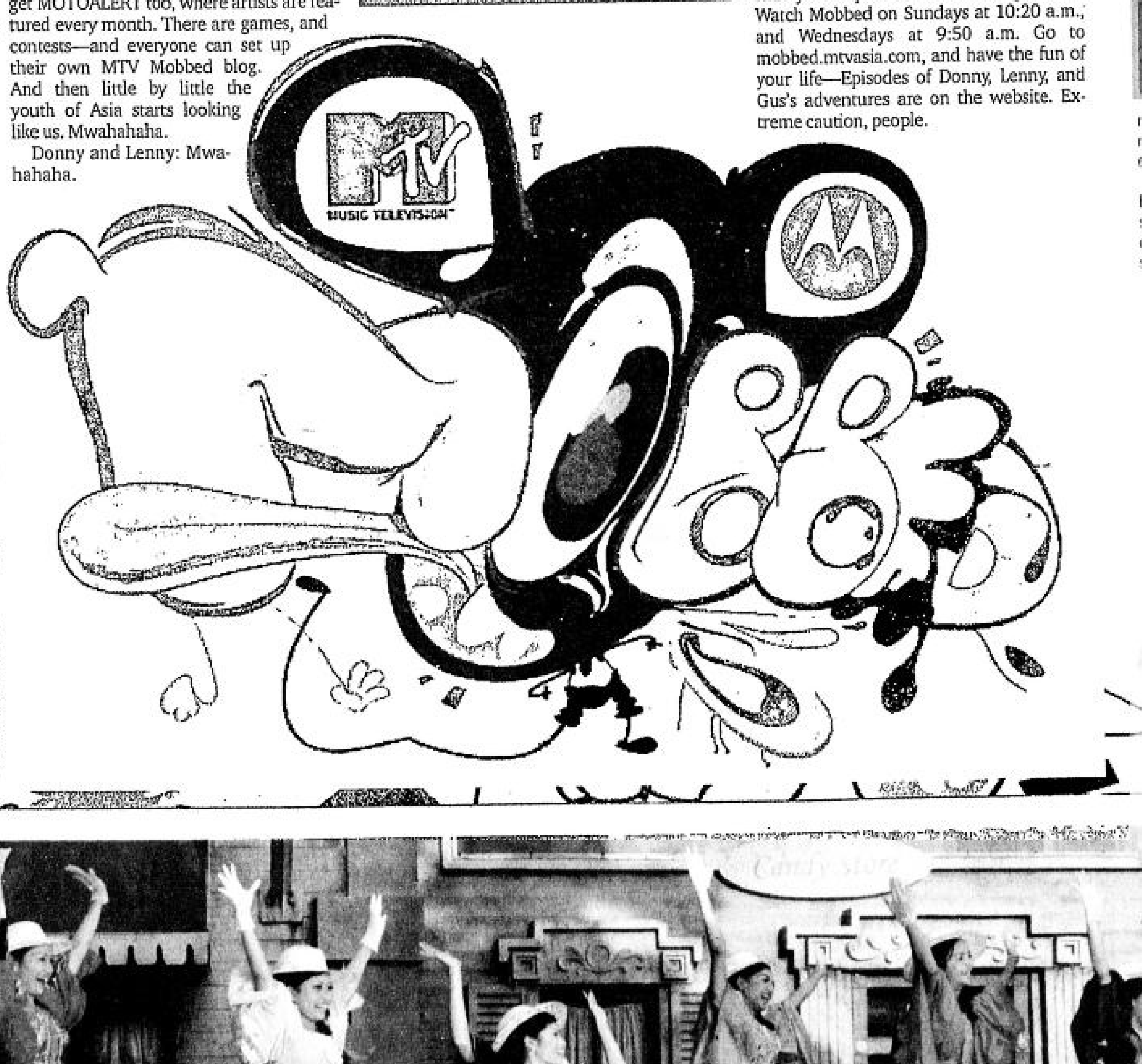
Lenny: Shut up, Gus.

You'll never get away with it.

Donny: When you're with Mobbed you get away with anything.

Lenny: I've chewed gum in Singapore. Ooh, what a rush.

They asked me to write this. And I did because I fear for my life: You guys can text MOBBED<space>MOBME to 2959, to start your super cool Mobbed experience. Watch Mobbed on Sundays at 10:20 a.m., and Wednesdays at 9:50 a.m. Go to mobbed.mtvasia.com, and have the fun of your life—Episodes of Donny, Lenny, and Gus's adventures are on the website. Extreme caution, people.



Meet th

(Reprinted from

Lenny

The pink-skinned green-
porter of chewing gum, form
band member (18 bands be
artist and former toys sales
site selling ad banner space.
ing with his good friends ha

Loves: Girlbands, triple e
thing, David Lee Roth but al
only wears nice white under
sions, he likes to show up in
from Japan.

Gus

Leader, most prominent,
squad. Good sense for pran

raised on a island somewhe
really knows for sure, all he
ending up in a big harbor cit

Loves: Señor Coconut, P
Bacharach, Mariah Carey (w
sing like her. He does a grea
carrot ice cream, carrot milk
steamed and nothing fried.

Candy store

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e mobsters

www.mtvmobbed.com)

oustached oldest of the crew is a former im- er B-movie extra, former band manager, former ween 1971-1996 alone), former manga comic ıan. He now makes his money running a web- which means he has nothing to do besides be- ving fun.

spresso on the rocks, hot curry sauce on every- o contemporary stuff such as Led Zeppelin. He pants and fresh white sport socks. On occa- flashy hip-hop bling mixed with sneakerwear

conic figure, but not most popular figure in the jokes, extreme stunts, physical activity. He knows all about the latest news and is a big fan of so-called weird news (dog saves 30 Singaporean tourists from obesity).

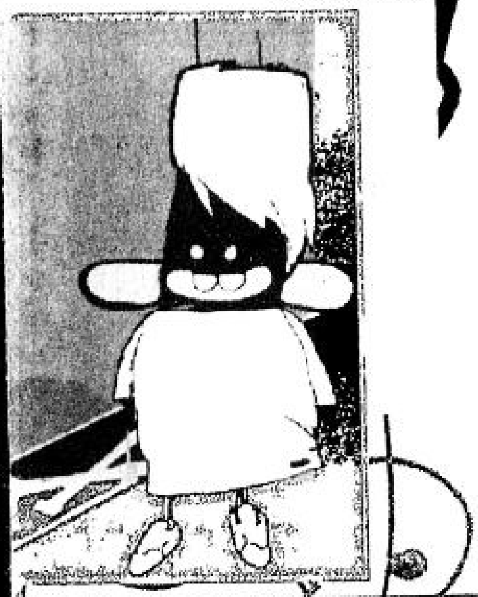
Loves: Chewing gum especially the Euro-imported kind (that's the reason why he and Lenny met, back in the day Lenny was importing the gum from France). Any loud music with guitars preferably or music with a singing saw. Gus knows a lot (really a lot) about gangster movies. He speaks various languages badly.

Donny

Pro surfer gone model. An energetic, heads down, all good kinda guy. Very popular with the ladies ("he's so cute"). Lives a healthy Californian kind of lifestyle, even though he was born and e between Australia and Sumatra (but nobody can remember is surfing offshore one day and).

incess Superstar, Dizzy Raskall, Burt ell, not really that he likes her, he just likes to imitation but slightly offkey) Seaweed salad, shake, carrot pizza, hot chocolate, anything

CHARACTERS BY FONS



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Park Address: San Lorenzo South, City of Santa Rosa, Laguna • Makati Sales Office: Ground Floor, The Biltmore Condominium 102 Aguirre St. Legaspi Village, Makati City. Tel. Nos. 830-21-11 to 16 and 843-60-73 to 78. www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

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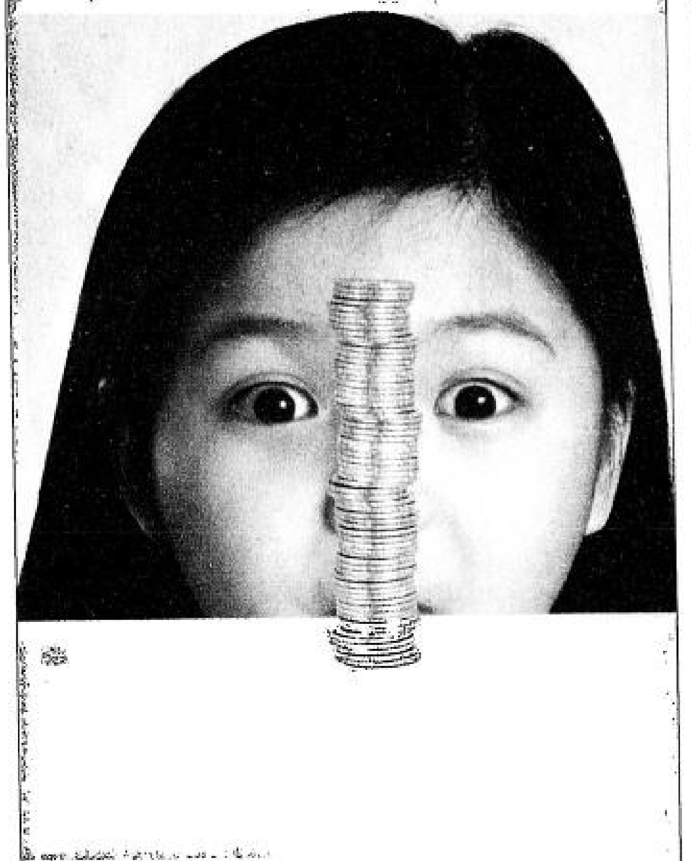
We add in the fun



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A chance to win a trip for four to Hong Kong Disneyland.

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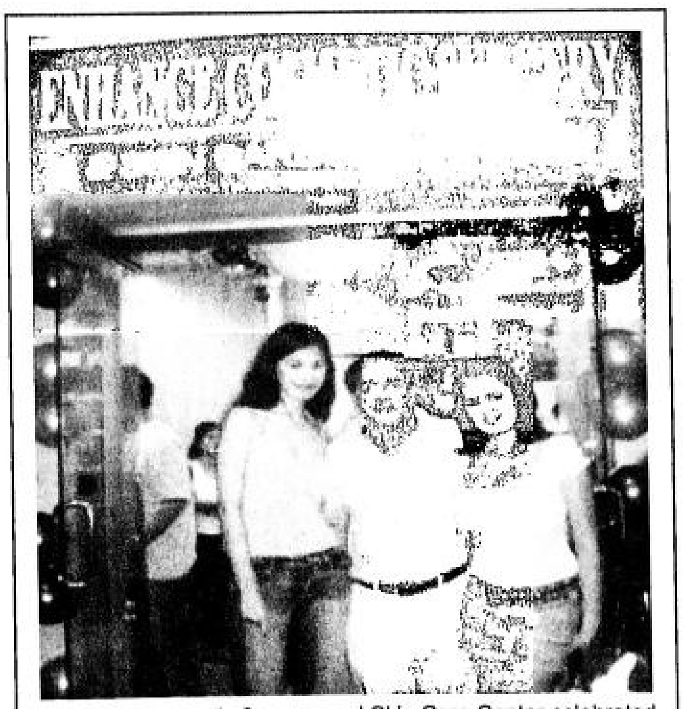

"Enhance Cosmetic Surgery and Skin Care Center celebrated its first SM Fairview branch Anniversary last March 12, 2006 with a free musical show at SM Fairview Annex Entertainment Center featuring its models/endorsers Francine Prieto and Darling Laviña. Enhance main clinic is located at SM North-EDSA Annex basement level and has been existing for over 6 years. From left to right: Francine Prieto, Dr. Reynaldo David, Cosmetic Surgeon/Owner, and Darling Laviña.

HENY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES. This 26 – day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking as well as cake decorating. It is suitable for those seeking an entry-level position in pastry shop, hotel or restaurants. Classes begin on June 3 – December 2, 2006. Classes are held every Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES: This 20-day hands on class is our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking & baking. This program is for anyone who wants to work towards becoming a professional chef. Class begins June 29 – September 7, 2006. Classes are held every Thursdays & Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.
For more information call 726-5316 or 412 7792 and ask Rita or Jenny

May 2 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)BROWNIE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jill Sandique, Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate at Peter Kumps New York Cooking School P2,500

May 2 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! SUMMER BACKYARD GRILLING & BARBECUE WORKSHOP PART 2 by: Chef Sam De Leoz, Food Consultant, Stylist, Photographer, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Culinary Competition Events Consultant specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery; International & Asian Cuisine. (Limited to 18 students only). It's summer and what better time to grill for all occasions with your family and friends. The Chefs shares with you in this full participation workshop a few of his signature Grilling and Barbecue all time favorites Recipes: Charbroiled SAM'S Baby Back Ribs w/ Barbecue Sauce and Grilled Corn, Grilled Blue Marlin w/ Sauce Grenobloise, Grilled Tuna Belly in Kikkoman Cilantro Marinade w/ Tamarind-Miso Dip, B Grilled Squid w/ Hot Chili Soy Vinegar, Grilled Chicken Breasts w/ Green Pepper Corn Sauce, Grilled Prawns w/ Beurre Noissette and Charbroiled Alimango w/ Roasted Sang Pan gang Vinegar-Bagoong Isda Dip. P2,000

May 3(Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (classroom A) CHILDREN'S COOKING by: Chef Jill Sandique. P1,500

May 3(Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) DOUGHNUT WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, trained at the Culinary Institute of America Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. P2,500

May 4(Thursday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! FIESTA BONANZA by: Chef Sam de Leoz. Take out those pots and pans and get ready to prepare Fiesta dishes with a twist and impress your guests with your Fiesta Bonanza. Recipes: Pansit Malabon, Prawn Thermidor w/ Sauce Nantua, Relyenong Bangus w/ Sauce Andalouse, Pastel de Lengua, Callos Madrilena, Aligeng Talangka Paella w/ Crispy Crablets. P1,700

May 4 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. (classroom B) BAKED PASTAS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio Sandoval, owner of Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon, Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy. P1,700

May 6 (Saturday) 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. (classroom A) BASIC RESTAURANT SERVICE SKILLS by: Cecile Mauricio, former editor of Mabuhay Philippines (Philippine Airlines' in-flight magazine), is a communication and marketing consultant for various restaurants. P1,500

May 6 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! FAVORITE BEEF & PORK DISHES by: Chef Jane Paredes
Crazy with beef & pork as comfort foods these are popular dishes great to serve at home or in a restaurant. Recipes: Braised Beef Belly, baby Rack Ribs, Orange Glazed Short Ribs, Pot Roast w/ Vegetables, Glazed Hanger Steak and Crusted & Pan Roasted Pork Loin. P2,000

May 8 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! FILIPINO KAKANIN by: Chef Carol Acosta, Food consultant to multinational food companies & restaurants *Bibingka Vigan, Kalamay Ube, Espasol, Kutsinta. Tejado, Suman Visaya, Peanut Roll Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500

May 8 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (classroom B) DELI SANDWICHES & SALADS by: Chef Jane Paredes. P1,700

May 8 (Monday) 1:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) COOKIE BARS FOR SELLING by: Chef Jane Paredes * Chocolate Revel Bars, Fudgy Brownies, Pecan Bars, Oatmeal Raisin Bars and Lemon Bars. P1,500

May 9 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. (classroom A) PASTA GALORE by: Chef Aileen Anastacio-Sandoval. P1,700

May 9 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! BLOW THEM AWAY WITH CHOCOLATE by: Chef Vicki Villanueva, from Stars & Bizu, let Chef Vicki share with you her wealth of knowledge and experience of patisseries and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operations. Chef Vicki teaches in this class the various application and most appealing of chocolate in baking and cooking. From Bread, Tarts, Cookie bars, Torte, Mousses, Buttercream to entrée. Mix business w/ pleasure as Gianduja Marjolaine Black Forest Bread, Chocolate Tart, Cappuccino and Walnut Bar, Triple Chocolate Cookie, Coq au vin (French Chicken Stew) done to your delight. P2,500

May 10(Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) SIOPAO & MAMI WORKSHOP by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine. P2,500

May 10(Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! GOURMET PULUTAN by: Chef Sam de Leoz. Learn to prepare easy step-by-step gourmet pulutan with a twist and gain the advantage over your next door rival bars. Recipes: Spicy Okoy w/ Chili-Vinagar-Patis Dip, Bacon Wrapped Saba w/ Mango Raisin Tomato Salsa, Sizzling Balut Sisig w/ Mushrooms and Truffle Oil, Camaron w/ Orange Glaze Dip, Baked Tahong w/ Alige w/ Japanese Miso-Wasabi Mayo Dip and Fiery Ginataang Kuhol sa Bicol. P1,700

May 11(Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) HOMEMADE SAUSAGES, CONDIMENTS & MARINADE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes. P2,500

May 11(Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m (classroom B) SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants. P1,700

May 12(Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) WAFFLES & PUFFS: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po, Pastry Chef of Fleur de Lys Patisserie, dean's list graduate, California Culinary Academy. P2,500

May 12(Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P2,500

May 15(Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) BURGERS & STEAKS by: Chef Jane Paredes. P2,500

May 15(Monday) 10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! BALIK ISKWELA SNACKS AND BAON PART 1 by: Chef Sam de Leoz Your baon miseries are now over! Give yourself and your family a break from the daily challenges of thinking and preparing ordinary snacks and baon. The module is a 2-part series to help you learn to prepare simple and easy gourmet fare. Recipes: Grilled Cheese w/ Luncheon and Minced Garlic, Pan-Seared Chicken w/ Grilled Vegetables Panini, Crispy Adobo Flakes w/ Adobo Demi Glace, Arroz a la Cubana w/ Crispy Bacon Bits Simmered in Red Wine Jus, Tuna Fish Steaks w/ Mornay Sauce, Blues Beef Burger w/ Mushroom Gravy. P1,700

May 16(Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) COFFEE CLASS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio Sandoval. P3,000

May 16(Tuesday) 9:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m (classroom B) NEW CLASS! CHINESE SEAFOOD SPECIAL II by: Chef Katherine Sion P2,000

May 16(Tuesday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom B) POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING I by: Chef Katherine Sion. P1,700

May 17(Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) JAPANESE RICE TOPPING by: Chef Koichi Kondo. P1,700

May 18(Thursday) 10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) DIFFERENT CHOCOLATE CAKES by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po. P1,500

May 18(Thursday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! DIMSUM 4 by: Chef Katherine Sion * Hakaw, Kutchay Dumpling, Crystal Scallop, Crisp Taro Puff, Ham Suy Kok and Triple Colored Cake. P2,000

May 18(Thursday) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING 4 by: Chef Katherine Sion. P1,700

May 19(Friday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (classroom A) HEALTHY GOURMET COOKING: SPA COOKING by: Jacqueline H. Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet). P1,400

May 19(Friday) 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! HEALTHY GOURMET COOKING COCONUT LOVERS' ALL DAY RECIPES by: Jacqueline H. Alleje. P1,400

May 19(Friday) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! FOOD CART IV - HOUSE OF ENSAYMADA by: Chef Vicki Villanueva. 5 new Recipes of Ensaymada: Almond Praline Ensaymada, Ensaymada Majorca, Ensaymada de Malabon, Commercial Ensaymada and Special Ube Ensaymada Demonstration w/ student participation. Reservation is a must! P2,600

May 20(Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT 101 by: Gianella Rodriguez, General Manager of Foodparks by Raintree. Graduate of Cornell University & Culinary Institute by America. Restaurant Management Fundamentals with useful forms and checklists for your operations manual. Course Outline: (1)Basics of Kitchen, bar and Waitstaff Management to increase service efficiency, (2)Essential of Food Safety & Sanitation Practices, (3)Budgeting, Auditing, Analizing Financial Statements & Cost Control (4)Marketing & Public Relations and (5)Team Management. P2,000

May 20(Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! EVERY DAY FOOD FOR HOUSEHOLD HELPER 3 by: Chef Carol Acosta * Bicol Laing, Sizzling Boneless Bangus, Pechay Guisado, Bam-i Especial, Fish (Lapu-Lapu) Tinola w/ Milk and Chicken Ham with Pineapple. Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500

May 22(Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (classroom A) CHINESE VEGETARIAN MEAL I by: Chef Katherine Sion * Braised Chinese Mushroom, Fried Beancurd, Budhist Vegetables, Sate Veggie Meat w/ Broccoli, Veggie Meat Menudo, and Beansprout w/ Kutchay Flower. P1,700

May 22(Monday) 1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) CHINESE VEGETARIAN MEAL II by: Chef Katherine Sion * Sweet & Sour Veggie Meat, Steamed Beancurd Roll, Crispy Mochi w/ Vegetable Filling, Braised Beancurd w/ Veggie Meat, Sotanghon w/ Vegetable, and Snowfungus w/ Fruit Cocktail. P1,700

May 22(Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! BALIK ISKWELA SNACKS AND BAON PART 2 by: Chef Sam de Leoz Your baon miseries are now over! Give yourself and your family a break from the daily challenges of thinking and preparing ordinary snacks and baon. The module is a 2-part series to help you learn to prepare simple and easy gourmet fare. Recipes: Monte Cristo Asado Sandwich, Philadelphia Steak Sandwich, Corned Beef Croquettes w/ Dijonnaise, Maryland Crab Cakes w/ lemon Beurre Blanc, Chicken Cordon Bleu w/ Sauce Supreme and Baked Pork Chop Pockets Stuffed w/ Mushrooms and Cheese w/ Pizzaiola Sauce. P1,700

May 23(Tuesday) 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison. P1,500

May 23(Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo. P2,500

May 25(Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) SWEET BUT SUGAR FREE CAKES by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po. P1,500

May 25(Thursday) 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (classroom B) THE BEST OF THE BEST SERIES I by: Chef Vicki Villanueva * Learn the chef's secret, more tips and proven techniques. Recipes: Apple Pie, Baked Cheesecake with Blueberry Topping, Mango Meringue Torte, French Butter Cake and Special Ube Cake P2,500

May 26(Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) FLOWER SHOP FAVORITES by: Glenn Remorca. Demo and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P3,000

May 26(Friday) 9:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! FOOD CART V - HOUSE OF PANDESAL by: Chef Vicki Villanueva. Recipes: Batwag Pandesal, My Moms Special Pandesal, Pandesal Putok, Egg Pandaesal, Pan de Sal de Plantsa, Cheese Pandesal, Adobo Pandesal, Pizza Pandesal, Ham Cheese Pandesal. Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500

May 27(Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) CONTROLLING FOOD COST by: Gianella Rodriguez. P2,000

May 27(Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) NEW CLASS! EVERYDAY FOOD FOR HOUSEHOLD HELPER 4 by: Chef Carol Acosta * Beef Pilau, Osso Buco (Braised Beef Shanks), Indian Paneer, Soft Cheese Making with Yogurt (for the Paneer), Butter Naan (Flat Leavened Indian Bread), Mixed Vegetable Croquette and Vermicelli in Cream w/ Cardamom Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500

May 30-31 Tuesday-Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison. Full participation. P4,000

May 30(Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (classroom B) HEALTHY GOURMET - SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 1 plus P700 recipe booklet for Phase 1 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje. Complete menu plan and recipes for 14 days of Phase 1. P1,500

May 30(Tuesday) 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) HEALTHY GOURMET – SOUTH BEACH DIET COMBO CLASS PHASE 2 and 3 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje plus P700 per recipe booklet. P1,500

May 31(Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) HEIRLOOM RECIPES & SIGNATURE CATERING DISHES (PART I) by: Chef Sam de Leoz *Pancit Palabok, Wine-braised Mechado w/ Mushroom Sauce and Truffle Essence, Layered Baked Macaroni w/ Herbed Anchovy Butter Garlic Toast, Relyenong Manok w/ Pineapple Cinnamon Sauce, Mahi-Mahi w/ Sauce Tartare and Rainbow garnish and Kilayen (Tita Baby's Pampangga-Style) Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,000

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We sell Cake Decorating, Confectionery and Baking Supplies.

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WATCH "A TASTE OF LIFE WITH HENY SISON" at IBC Channel 13 every Sunday, 11:00-12:00 noon

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Super Condolences

Super expresses its sincerest condolences to a brother, a colleague, a friend—a maverick and leader in the fashion industry. As president of the Young Designers Guild, Mel Vergel de Dios has pioneered the vision of young Filipino design becoming globally competitive. Always on the cutting edge and guiding young Filipino design talent, Mel has been instrumental in molding our generation of designers. Last April 20, Mel joined hands with the Lord and is now happily creating designs for the angels above. Lucky for the cherubs but for us here, his sisters, friends and family, who are stuck on earth with clothes that he has masterfully designed, he will be sorely missed. Mel will be remembered not for his death but for his life.

Beat the summer heat with Automatic CENTRE's summer fantasies

Summer days are so hot you can imagine beach scenery complete with tall coconut trees, hammocks and cold fruit shakes right inside your home as you sweat and daydream about that beach vacation. But even if that beach vacation is far-off, you can always settle back in the comforts of your living room and just beat the summer heat by doing stuff you like, such as watching DVDs or stocking up on ice creams and cold drinks.

To help you beat the summer heat, Automatic Centre sets up two unbeatable appliance exhibits to help you spend and enjoy summer days within the comforts of your home, or on long trips to beaches and cool mountain areas.

Automatic Centre Summer Fantasy is now ongoing at Edsa Central Pavilion and Alabang Town Center. Both exhibits that showcase appliances and gadgets to help you beat the summer heat will run until May 2.

Automatic Centre exhibits are a must-see as the country's "Appliance Authority" offers an array of products that will surely make

AUTOMATIC/ F2

PHOTOS BY JIM PUNZALAN

Automatic CENTRE
Summer Fantasy

Come on and dive into this Fantasy-fulfilling event!

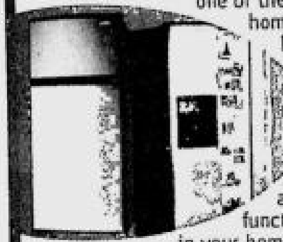
from APRIL 18 to MAY 02, 2006 at the ALABANG TOWN CENTER
and from APRIL 17 to MAY 15, 2006 at the EDSA CENTRAL PAVILION

• Audiovox • Canon • Carrier/Condura/Kelvinator • Electrolux/White Westinghouse • Hitachi • Hyundai • iPod • JVC • Kolin/Syntax • Konka • La Germania • LG • Nextbase • Panasonic • Philips • Pioneer • Samsung • Sansui • Sharp • Sony • Toshiba • Whirlpool

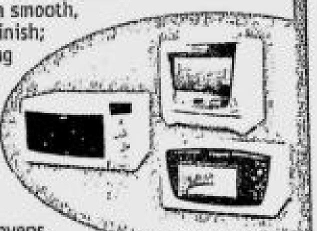
Whirlpool
SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

THE WORLD OF WHIRLPOOL

Overall efficiency and elegance has never been executed as effectively as Whirlpool has. Producing appliances that feature top of the line functions and stylish designs, Whirlpool has definitely earned its rank as one of the widely used home appliances both here and in the United States. Whirlpool appliances are not only elegant; they also do functional marvels in your home. Welcome to the world of Whirlpool.



A Whirlpool refrigerator is the definition of cool. Equipped with 360° Surround Cool and Quick Cooling Systems, our refrigerators generate and even-out temperature in no time at all. Appearance wise, our classy design exudes sophistication. We have designed a sleek look for our refrigerators by producing contoured doors, handles and edges with a smooth, high-gloss finish; thus breaking the old and boxy look of traditional appliances.



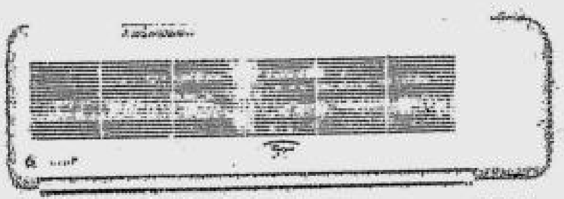
As for microwave ovens, Whirlpool designed them to be as compact as they are efficient. Whirlpool microwave ovens cook and heat your food in an instant. Aside from their standard functions, Whirlpool Microwave Ovens also have a Quartz Grilling function that is perfect for all your roasts and barbeques. Moreover, a Double Emission System comes with these microwave ovens to ensure perfectly even-cooking without leaving any cold spots. Enjoy indoor grilling and microwave cooking like no other with Whirlpool Microwave Ovens.

Now when it comes to keeping it clean, Whirlpool Washers are revolutions ahead of competition. With speeds reaching up to 750rpm, Whirlpool Washers remove dirt - providing you with the whitest white possible. Our washers have different cleaning actions; each built for various washing and cleaning needs.

Function and flair -- definitely the two elements that make a Whirlpool Home Appliance. Take home a Whirlpool appliance now and sense the difference.

www.whirlpool.com.ph

A WHISPER OF PURITY



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Set yourself free. Relax to a rejuvenating chill only Whirlpool's Whispure Split-Type Airconditioner can give you. Break free from the soot and grime of the urban jungle and breathe in cool air that is fresh and therapeutic at the same time. With its Ionizer Filter, 6th Sense technology, and Jet Mode function, relaxation is more than just a luxury.

Whirlpool's Whispure Split Type Airconditioner. It's a heavenly experience.

Also available in 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 horsepowers.

Enjoy free installation* and zero interest for 6 months for every purchase of a Whirlpool Split Type Airconditioner.
*Back to back installation up to 10 ft only.

IONIZER FILTER
Refreshing negative ions are released in the air to kill bacteria, eliminate many allergy causing particulates, and clear the air of smoke and other unpleasant smells, thus purifying and freshening the air you breathe.

6th sense
6TH SENSE TECHNOLOGY
Whirlpool 6th Sense sensor control has "intelligent" sensors that detect temperature changes and make adjustments to preserve optimum cooling conditions. 6th Sense technology also saves energy by only cooling when needed.

JET MODE FUNCTION
Whirlpool Split Type air conditioners feature a Jet Mode function, which is used to start or stop fast cooling. In Jet Mode, you can cool a hot, average-sized room in a matter of minutes.

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2/F Anson Emporium, Pasay Road, Makati City, 843-5066 • Ortigas 2/F Automatic Center, Ortigas Home Depot, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, 635-9010 • Quezon City #22 D.Tuazon St. cor. L. Castillo St., Quezon City, 732-7370 loc 101-103

WHIRLPOOL QUALITY EXPRESS SERVICE

Whirlpool
SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

Beat the summer heat with Automatic CENTRE's summer fantasies

From page F1

this summer fun, enjoyable and memorable.

Staying at home, frolicking in the sand and the sea, breathing cool mountain breeze, enjoying road trips to top summer destinations, your vacation is a special moment to fill with exciting and memorable activities. Don't let that moment pass without you capturing it so always keep your trusted gadgets handy.

Don't forget to pack a digital camera

Grand scenic spots in the country abound. But nothing compares to the smile of your child basking in the sun, playing in the waters, and building his or her first sand castle. Don't let this moment go by. Pack a digital camera, which now has become affordable and convenient to use that you can share your child's photograph instantly with loved ones here and abroad.

Prices of digital cameras have drastically gone down and everyone can appreciate the technology. From the low 3.1 megapixels, digital cameras today offer 8-megapixels resolutions. So if you are a hobbyist or a professional photographer, you can choose from wide selections of digital cameras.

Find Canon, Casio, Kodak, Nikon, Olympus, Panasonic, Pentax, Sony and a lot more cameras at Automatic Centre exhibits.

Better yet, make your movie

Photographs in prints or digital form make for a perfect documentation of your travels, and the chance for people to display their artistic abilities, but capturing the happy gathering on video would also be a perfect long-term "keepsake".

The latest video cameras in the market get more and more advanced. Others are getting smaller and handy too. Capturing the people's fancy nowadays are the camcorders that come in with a hard disk. While others record on mini discs or DVDs that can be plugged directly to various media like TVs or PCs to view and save the contents.

For all your camera and video needs, Automatic Centre's specialists would be glad to introduce you to the latest camcorders or video cameras available in the market. Whatever recording medium you prefer (mini-DV, DVD or hard-disk), Automatic Centre makes sure that you don't miss a thing this summer by getting your hands on a brand new camcorder at very reasonable prices at affordable payment terms and with fabulous freebies.

Bring your movies and music with you

Got a bored child with you during your cruise to the islands? Long trips aren't your children's cup of tea. They do get bored and sometimes cranky. To ward off that boredom, bring a portable DVD player and let them enjoy their favorite cartoons on board. Take your favorite movies with you and watch them from where you are staying--in the beach or in your hotel.

When you just want to board a bus and enjoy traveling at night, lull yourself to sleep with music from your iPod or MP3 player. Load them up with various types of music that will suit your mood during the trip.

Automatic Centre offers the perfect solution to keep you and your family entertained whether in a car, on a boat or a plane. Equip yourself with digital music players from iPod and Creative and listen to your favorite songs. Better yet enjoy a movie on your portable lcd-dvd players from Audiovox and Nextbase.

Enjoy summer in your living room

Summer is the perfect time of the year to feed your Hollywood and local film cravings and the perfect venue is your living room equipped with the latest entertainment appliances.

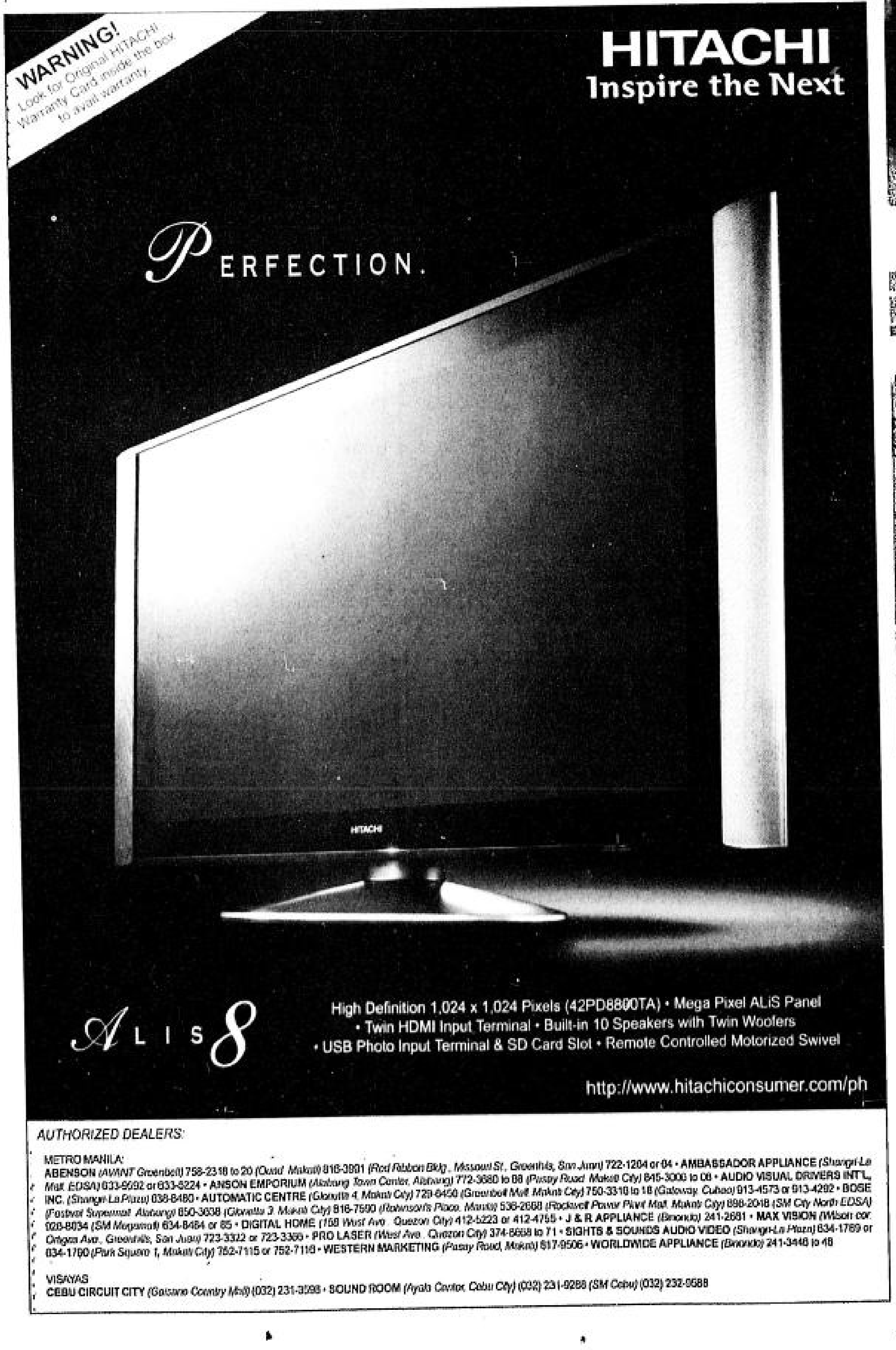
To take your summer home-stay to another

AUTOMATIC/ F3

Staying at home, frolicking in the sands and the sea, breathing cool mountain breeze, enjoying road trips to top summer destinations, your vacation is a special moment to fill with exciting and memorable activities. Don't let that moment pass without you capturing these moments so always keep your trusted gadgets handy

Automatic CENTRE
Summer Fantasy
Come on and dive into this Fantasy-fulfilling event!
from APRIL 18 to MAY 02, 2006 at the ALABANG TOWN CENTER
and from APRIL 17 to MAY 15, 2006 at the EDSA CENTRAL PAVILION

MICROWAVE OVENS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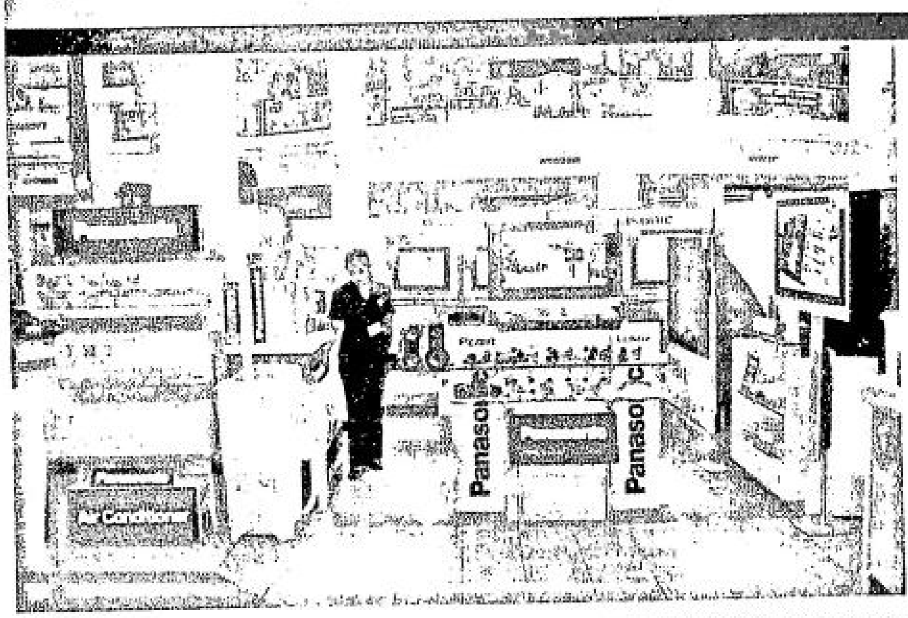
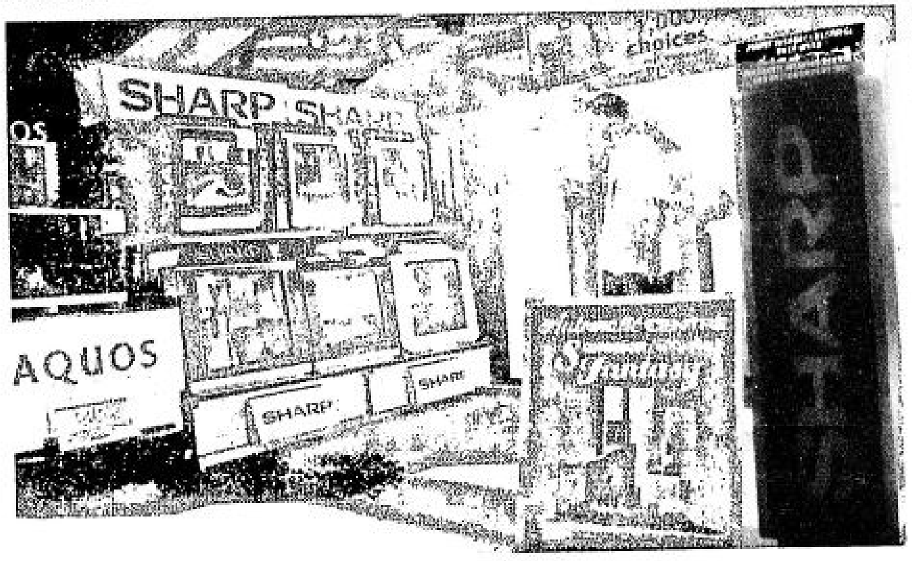
AUTHORIZED DEALERS:

METRO MANILA:
ABENSON (AVANT Greenbelt) 758-2318 to 20 (Quad Makati) 816-3901 (Red Ribbon Bldg., Missouri St., Greenhills, San Juan) 722-1204 or 04 • AMBASSADOR APPLIANCE (Shangri-La Mall EDSA) 633-9592 or 633-8224 • ANSON EMPORIUM (Alabang Town Center, Alabang) 772-3680 to 88 (Pasay Road Makati City) 845-3000 to 08 • AUDIO VISUAL DRIVERS INT'L, INC. (Shangri-La Plaza) 638-6480 • AUTOMATIC CENTRE (Glorietta 4, Makati City) 729-6450 (Greenbelt Mall Makati City) 750-3310 to 18 (Gateway Cubao) 913-4573 or 913-4282 • BOSE (Festival Supermall Alabang) 850-3638 (Glorietta 3 Makati City) 816-7590 (Robinson's Place, Manila) 536-2688 (Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati City) 898-2018 (SM City North EDSA) 928-8034 (SM Megamall) 634-8484 or 85 • DIGITAL HOME (158 West Ave. Quezon City) 412-5223 or 412-4755 • J & R APPLIANCE (Binondo) 241-2681 • MAX VISION (Wilson cor. Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan) 723-3322 or 723-3366 • PRO LASER (West Ave. Quezon City) 374-6668 to 71 • SIGHTS & SOUNDS AUDIO VIDEO (Shangri-La Plaza) 634-1789 or 634-1790 (Park Square 1, Makati City) 752-7115 or 752-7118 • WESTERN MARKETING (Pasay Road, Makati) 817-9506 • WORLDWIDE APPLIANCE (Binondo) 241-3448 to 48

VISAYAS
CEBU CIRCUIT CITY (Gaisano Country Mall) (032) 231-3598 • SOUND ROOM (Ayala Center, Cebu City) (032) 231-9288 (SM Cebu) (032) 232-9588

Beat the summer heat with Automatic CENTRE's summer fantasies





From page F2

level, consult an audio-video specialist at any Automatic Centre who will gladly assist you in setting up your own home theater system. From the simplest to truly cinema quality systems, Automatic Centre can help you find the right solution for you.

As to affordability, several home theater systems are now reasonably priced. Manufacturers are getting more aggressive in giving people the better technology. Plasma TVs, DLP, LCD, can now be purchased at reasonable terms with offers like 0-percent interest for up to 24 months.

Feel a refreshing summer

Prevent sweating and fanning yourself incessantly and cool down with the help of an air conditioner. The "hottest" product during the warm months is the one that "cools" you down.

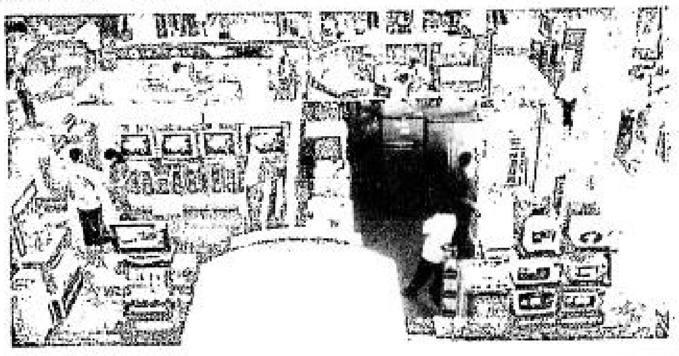
Survive the heat with a new air conditioner. Split-type air conditioners are now much preferred by some households. Why? It is much quieter and offers a host of features that improve the quality of the air.

AUTOMATIC/ F4

Automatic CENTRE
Summer Fantasy

Come on and dive into this Fantasy-fulfilling event!

from APRIL 18 to MAY 02, 2006 at the ALABANG TOWN CENTER
and from APRIL 17 to MAY 15, 2006 at the EDSA CENTRAL PAVILION



SHARP

THE ELEGANT BLACK PANEL, BOTTOM SPEAKER, STUNNER.

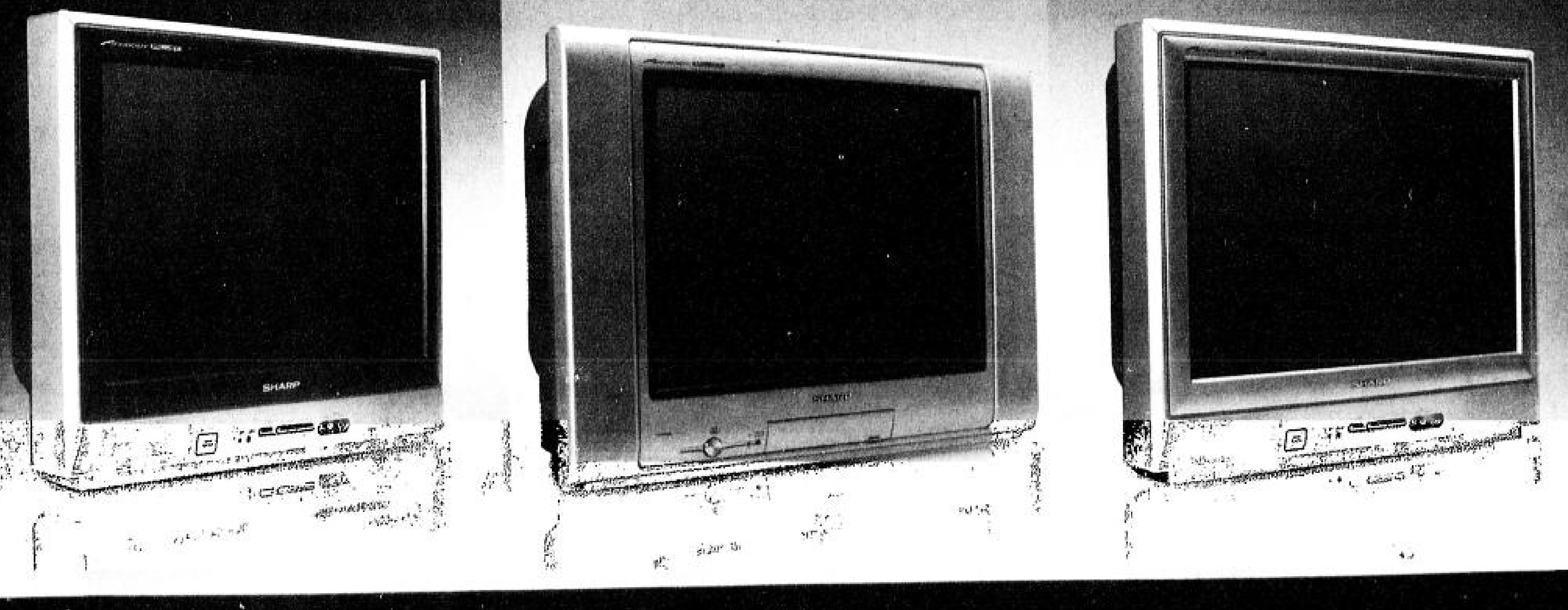
Watch your favorite movies in stunning enhanced audio on a TV with stunning good looks. This design will surely make your home look charmingly elegant.

THE CLASSY SILVER PANEL, SIDE SPEAKER, ROOM CENTERPIECE.

Bring your family closer, watch TV together. This classy design is tailor fit to be the main attraction in your living room. Plus, with its dual side speaker design, the superior quality sound can be enjoyed by everyone in the room. Now that's family oriented.

THE STYLISH SILVER PANEL, BOTTOM SPEAKER, SPACE SAVER DESIGN.

Save on space, not on style. The bottom speaker design and 21-inch view screen makes this stylish TV perfect for your bedroom.



WHATEVER LOOKS GOOD TO YOU, IT'S SHARP.

Energy-saving function. Adjustable screen brightness to conserve electric power.

Great Connection. The Video/Audio output line terminals allow you to connect audio amplifiers and monitors, while the Audio/Video IN terminals let you hook-up your VCR, DVD, and VCD players.

Stand-out sound. Enhanced audio technology with MTS/SAP function on selected models.

Blue screen display. A cool blue screen display comes on in case of poor channel signal.

Selected models are available in 21, 25 and 29 inch variants.

The Sharp Flat TV Series

EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S SHARP.

www.sharp.ph

Beat the summer heat with Automatic CENTRE

From page F3

Aside from that, it is space saving. Some brands have come up with a new product which instantly cleans itself at given days. So you don't have to clean the filter which is sometimes time-consuming every so often.

Some split-type air conditioners already have ionizers, filters, and other features that fight off air pollution. Some brand available at the Automatic Centre offers free installation of split-type aircons.

Automatic Centre has great deals on the latest cooling appliances including air-conditioners from trusted brands such as Carrier, Condura, Kelvinator, Kolin, LG, Panasonic, Samsung and many more.

Make your stay at home even cozier, by bringing home fantastic refrigerator and freezer finds that are sure to keep your favorite drinks and refreshments ice-cold and fresh under the scorching heat of summer. Global brands Fisher & Paykel, Fridgidaire, Whirlpool and White-Westinghouse are just a few of the choices that are available at your "Appliance Authority."

There is so much to do with and so many gadgets and appliances to choose from.

Automatic Centre, now on its 58th year, has 16 branches nationwide. It offers everything and anything you need this summer for the home, the office, or on the road.

Automatic Centre has been making summers enjoyable for Filipinos over the past 58 years. Established in 1948, the Appliance Authority understands the varying needs of consumers and always strives to find a solution appropriate for specific customer needs. Visit one of its branches and talk to its people to find out how to make the most of your Summer 2006.

Make this summer vacation exciting by planning activities with family and friends. Have more fun than you intend to have with the handy, pocket electronic gadgets, home and office appliances available at Automatic Centre.

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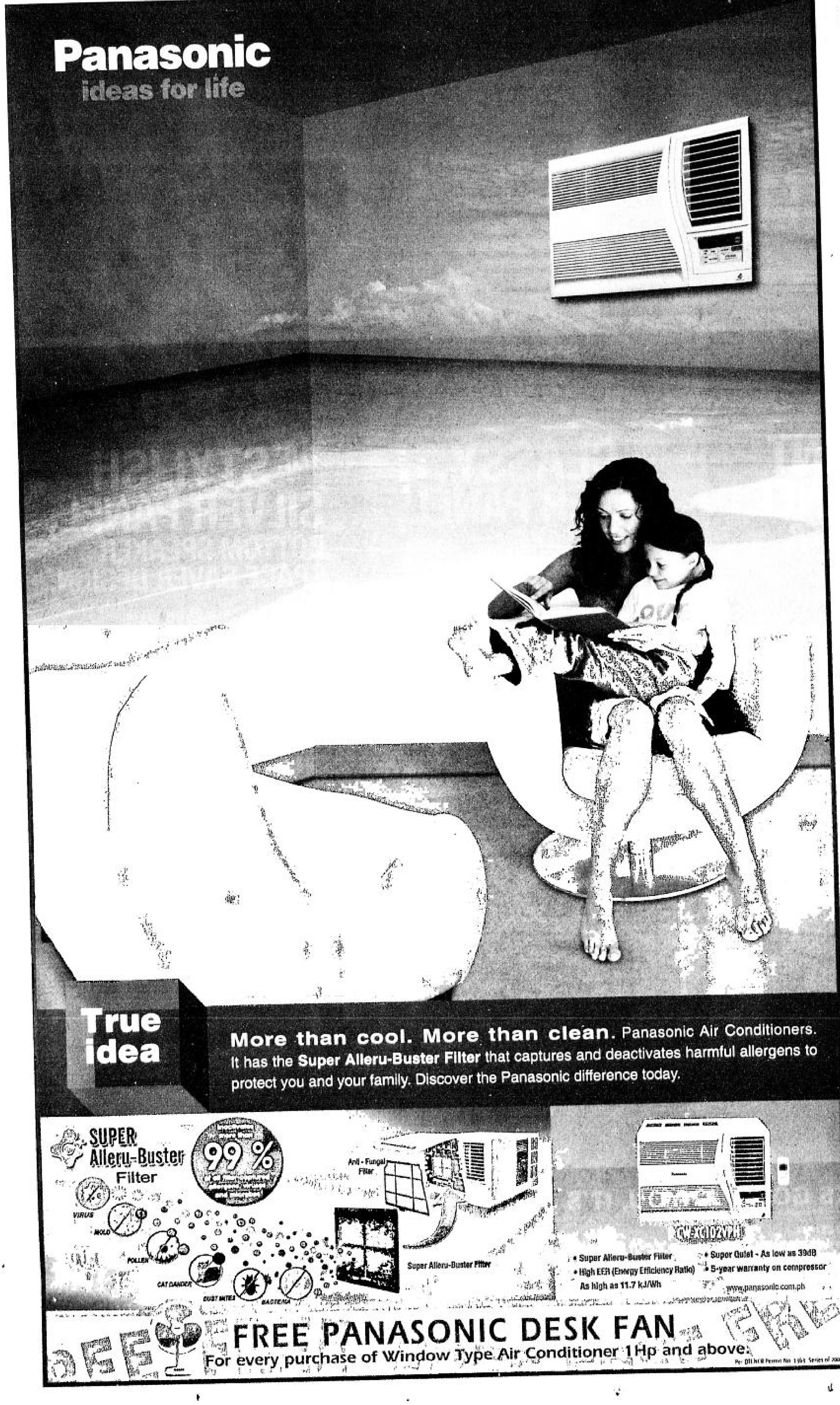

More than cool. More than clean. Panasonic Air Conditioners. It has the Super Alleru-Buster Filter that captures and deactivates harmful allergens to protect you and your family. Discover the Panasonic difference today.

- Super Alleru-Buster Filter
- High EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio) As high as 11.7 kJ/Wh
- Super Quiet - As low as 39dB
- 5-year warranty on compressor

www.panasonic.com.ph

For every purchase of Window Type Air Conditioner 1Hp and above.

PANASONIC AIR CONDITIONERS:
The way to fight the invisible household enemy

WE USUALLY FIND OURSELVES shunning the outdoors for fear of inhaling airborne viruses and bacteria. Overprotective mothers would rather lock their kids up inside their homes than get themselves dirty playing outdoors with their friends.

Very few of us, however, are aware that indoor air quality is actually fast becoming the world's top environmental health problem. In fact, the US Environmental Protection Agency found out that indoor air pollution is two to 10 times worse than outdoor.

Surprisingly, the EPA study also showed that air pollution levels in many well-insulated homes is even higher than the most polluted cities in the world. This is why a lot of people develop asthma and other respiratory diseases even when they stay indoors most of the time.

In the Philippines alone, about eight million Filipinos have respiratory problems and over six million children have asthma, making the Philippines the allergy capital of Asia. A nationwide study conducted by the University of Santo Tomas shows about 12.4 percent of children 14-15 years old are afflicted with asthma.

So how do you fight the invisible enemy in your household environment? Fortunately, Panasonic has come up with another bright idea that promotes reduction of sources of pollution while improving ventilation indoors through a new line of window and split type air conditioners.

The new Panasonic Air Conditioners now perform more than just cooling because they are developed with the Super Alleru-Buster Filter technology that employs three functional materials to deactivate various harmful elements such as Anti-allergen for Pollen and Dust mites, Anti-Virus and Bio-Elimination for Bacteria and mould.

Another good news is, the Panasonic Window Type Air Conditioner has a very high Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) at 11.7. Government regulation for EER is at least at 9.3 kJ/Wh for 12,000 BtU/hr and below and 8.8kJ/Wh for 12,000 BtU/hr and above.

Panasonic Air Conditioners also have a Super Quiet feature that is as low as 39 decibels, producing lesser noise than a quiet library which is 40 decibels. This was made possible through a redesign of the air inlet to the turbo fan which greatly reduces wind-shear noise as well as the reinforcing of sound insulation.

Breakthrough innovation

The Split Type Air Conditioner, meanwhile, introduces the unique Auto Filter Cleaning feature-a break-through innovation in the cooling industry. The auto cleaning system works exactly like the conventional filter cleaning method of sweeping, vacuuming and discarding the filtered dust but without the physical effort-a technological advancement that makes it hassle-free for you and your family.

Another feature of the Split Type Air Conditioner is the Supersonic AP System with auto refresh deodorizer that keeps indoor air-fresh and odor-free.

We cannot undermine the importance of cleaning the filters if we want to avoid problems such as lower air volume and air con efficiency, increased noise, and unpleasant odors.

With the new Panasonic Air Conditioners, your family will not just stay cool as the temperature starts to heat up for summer, they will stay safe and healthy too. Truly making your family experience a feeling that's more than cool, more than clean.